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# A FEW HENS

THE POULTRY PAPER FOR BEGINNERS.

VOL. 2.

BOSTON, MASS., JULY 15, 1898.

NO. 1

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## EDITORIAL HINTS.

We have grown!

Stick-to-it-ive-ness.

Have you renewed?

One year old today.

Broody hens in galore.

Shoulder the gun for lice.

Plow the runs after a rain.

Be plucky but not reckless.

Utility men are thoroughbreds.

Broodiness is the hen's vacation.

Judge the man by the fowls he keeps.

Encourage the hens by kind treatment.

Don't put all the blame on the hired man.

The mongrel is not a reliable utility fowl.

Jokes on the *Spanish* fowls seems to be in order.

Have you secured new blood for another season?

If you are done hatching, break up the breeding pens.

Does the hot weather take the "starch" out of you?

The war is gradually increasing the prices of poultry products.

A FEW HENS and our Experimental Farm are having a steady growth.

Compare this issue with that of July, 1897, and note the improvement.

Don't enjoy the shade as long as the poultry are exposed to the sun.

The poultryman who is always taken in by the new breeds never has anything.

We now give 50 per cent more matter for the same money. Pretty good measure for war times.

The birthdays of both A FEW HENS and the editor come in July—the latter's on the 14th, and the former's on the 15th.

## Experimental Farm Notes.

*High Price of Wheat Called for a Change in the Bill of Fare—Hatching in the Cellar—A Word About Visitors—We Have Adopted a Regular System—Notes that May be of Value.*

During the high prices of wheat, we began to study up some plan for a cheaper substitute, and at the same time one that would not too much lessen the good results which we always experienced with wheat. Fortunately, this rise in the price of wheat, while it was gradually going up during the winter, did not reach the top notch until late in the spring. But when it began shooting towards the \$2.00 mark, we realized that something must be done by way of a substitute.

For the old fowls we changed to oats, but the strong objection to the hulls, they being known to greatly irritating the crops of the fowls, and being also informed of cases of peculiar sores in the mouths of hens fed on oats, caused, it is said, by a minute insect that lives and breeds in the hulls, we were rather timid about feeding them too freely.

Finally we concluded to scald them; so at noon we measure the evening allowance in a pail, over which we pour another pail of boiling water. Then covering with a board we allow the grain to steep and swell until we are ready to feed in the evening. The result is the bulk becomes greater and the hulls are soft; besides, if any insects are on them the scalding water kills them. The dust, too, that comes with the oats is allayed.

When fed in the evening the grain is still warm and as we scatter it among litter it is interesting to see the fowls pitching in. While they would eat the raw oats only when driven to it by hunger, they never fail to clean up their allowance of the scalded article.

Before feeding, we pour off the water, which has very much the appearance of a tea. This we use to mix up the duck feed.

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To find a substitute for wheat in the diet of young chicks, was not so easy a matter. We tried cracked corn, but they would eat only a part of it, and then cry for more food. Then we mixed half cracked corn and half wheat, and now they are better satisfied. But as soon as wheat gets down to a more reasonable figure, we will again use it for the young stock to the exclusion of all other grains.

But in the case of the fowls, we are always going to make the scalded oats an evening feed, at least two or three times a week.

Rolled oats, dry, fed in the troughs, takes the place of wheat for quite young stock.

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In our June report we told of our experience in hatching duck eggs in a damp cellar, and the difficulty we had in drying them down. Yet no dampness would have been suspected in that cellar. Nevertheless it is there, or the eggs would have dried down more readily.

As we stated in our last number, we placed the duck eggs under hens to hatch, and charged the machines with hen eggs. At this writing a 100-egg Prairie State incubator has made a hatch. Another machine (made for duck eggs) is not quite due. We placed 360 hen eggs in it. The 100-egg incubator was filled mostly with White Wyandotte eggs (about seventy) and the rest of space was occupied by Brahma eggs and eggs from a cross of Wyandotte on Brahma. We ran the machine according to the condition of the air cells in the Wyandotte eggs. The consequence was that after taking out 27 unfertile eggs, we hatched 48 strong chicks. None of the Brahma eggs hatched, though they all had chicks in them; but the majority of the crossbred eggs hatched. We had no trouble whatever to dry down these hen eggs. We did not use a particle of moisture from start to finish, but we did cool the eggs down to 85° and 90° twice a day. The hatch began two days before time, and was completed nearly a day before it was due. That made it plain that the hen eggs will stand more dampness than will those of ducks.

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We have had quite a varied experience with our ducks so far this year. In laying, they could not be expected to do better, but the poor hatches and loss in the stock after being hatched, may have a tendency to jeopardize our profits on our investment. At the same time, our hens not only did grand laying, but the eggs were strongly fertile, the hatches good, and the young grow like weeds. The finale report at the end of the year promises to be interesting. So far the hens are ahead of the ducks. The end of the year will show what branch of market poultry culture will be the most profitable on our two acre tract.

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We are at present compiling a table which will show the progress we have made from January 1 to July 1, in establishing a living on our two acre experiment. The report will name the breed, number of eggs set, amount realized from eggs for table use, amount realized from fowls for table use, amount realized from eggs for hatching, and amount realized from sale of



breeding stock. The report will plainly show how much profit we have made on each variety. Our idea is to show the actual cost of feeding, per hen, and what profit, per head, we have made.

It was our intention to have this report in this issue, but as we are compelled to write these notes a month ahead of publication, we are unable to complete them in time.

\* \* \*

A word about visitors. They are always welcome—*excepting on Sundays*. Our main reason for making Sunday an exception is that on that day we take our young man's place, giving him the day for himself. So we have all the work to do—feeding and watering. Between meals we prefer being alone to rest, as it is the only day we have in a week to keep our mind free from editorial care and worry. On any other day visitors will be welcome.

We have no rules by which visitors must be governed, but there are a few matters that we prefer having observed.

*First.* Remember that our farm contains but two acres of land; that we are taking the place of the beginner and gradually building up. We started but a little more than a year ago, and the young man who is shouldering the work, has put up all the buildings himself, done all the improving, and had full charge of the stock. What you will find is the work of one man. It plainly shows about what can be expected. About one acre of the farm is now complete, and we are adding buildings and facilities gradually as the growth of stock, etc., will demand.

So do not come with the expectation of finding a large poultry farm with a gang of men at work, for you will be disappointed. A FEW HENS Experimental Farm is an illustration of poultry on a small scale for profit.

*Second.* Ask all the questions, and put your time to as much use as possible, but be as brief as you can. Time is valuable with us. We can always arrange to make a short stay pleasant if not profitable, but "a day's trip" of it will throw our plans for that day out of gear.

*Third.* We are no fanciers. We have strictly thoroughbreds, and some excellent representatives of their kind, but we are not catering to Standard points. We can show you utility facts and figures.

Now with the knowledge of what you are to expect, we beg that you may understand that you are welcome any day but Sunday, and we will try to make your visit both pleasant and profitable. We prefer to be notified in advance, say several days before you come, so that we may arrange our work accordingly.

\* \* \*

We have adopted a regular system for work on our farm. That is, we have duties that we perform daily, and others for which we have special days.

Each morning the manure is collected in the hen houses, and fresh bedding thrown in the duck pens. Twice a week we scatter disinfectant (Whitney's Carbolic of Lime) on the dropping boards and about the houses of all our stock.

Every Saturday all the houses—hen, duck and chick coops—are thoroughly cleaned. Every morning the drinking fountains are rinsed, and once a week (Saturday) they are thoroughly cleaned with hot water and shot.

An hour after feeding, each day, the troughs are cleaned of all food that may be left. The duck water troughs are cleaned three times a day, before giving fresh water. We clean out the sand with a garden hoe.

Fresh scratching litter is given weekly; nests are cleaned out every two weeks; sulphur burned in the houses every month; and kero-

sene freely used wherever there are signs of mites or lice congregating.

All this work consumes considerable time, but it is time well spent, and fully repaid by hardy, thrifty stock. Every poultryman can afford to strictly enforce the rules of cleanliness.

In our system of work we have regular hours for leaving stock out in their runs in the morning; regular hours for feeding; and regular hours for closing up the houses at night. It is wonderful how quickly the fowls become accustomed to such rules.

\* \* \*

A FEW HENS is very thankful to its readers for many kind words of sympathy expressed for our trouble with a chicken thief, as mentioned in our last issue. Two of those letters showed genuine good intentions. One offered a pedigreed snow white Bull Terrier, "a terror to evil doers, a friend to those who deserve friendship."

Another letter reads:

"I note your report of loss from chicken thieves, and while you were lucky to get off so cheap, still I can feel for and with you. If your one savage dog isn't enough, I have a purebred mastiff, two years old next September, 'Tom Reed', male, 30 inches high to shoulder, powerful, faithful, sound, kind and clever. As great a companion to children as he is good at watching. I can spare him as I have three St. Bernards, and would be glad to send him to you—and all he will cost you will be the express charges."

Both these offers, while they were very tempting, we had to decline for the reason that the farm cannot support more than one big dog. We now have an excellent beast—"Mark" by name, who makes friends with no one but the immediate members of the family. He is ever watchful and never barks unless there is a good and sufficient reason for so doing. Mark was given us by the night marshall of the town. He assisted him in doing patrol duty. The marshall had two dogs trained for the work, and finding that one did better work alone than when in the company of the other, he offered us Mark and we gladly accepted. Several weeks ago we had every reason to believe that our "unwelcome visitor" put in an appearance, judging from the manner in which Mark raised the alarm. As nothing was disturbed we surmise that the thief "made for the woods." We feel safe under the protection of faithful Mark.

\* \* \*

As mentioned in former issues, our hens during hot weather are set out doors in barrels. Last year we placed these barrels under apple trees, but this year we were compelled to move them farther back on the place. Unfortunately we could not locate them where there was strong shade, so the next step was to provide some protection from the heat of the sun. So we planted posts on each side of the barrels and runs, and strung heavy wire across. Then we went to the woods and cut heavy branches from the trees. These we laid across the wire, thick enough to break the heat of the sun, thus giving us as good shade as we secured from the apple trees. As the leaves of these branches die, we throw fresh branches on top of them, and in this way have a cool, shady place and the hens do well in consequence.

\* \* \*

We have determined to set no more Brahma hens during warm weather. At best the Brahma is risky on account of heavy weight and clumsiness, yet we had some excellent results in early spring. But since warm weather has come, we have lost rather than gained by setting Brahmas. They are restless and move about on the nest breaking eggs and crushing young. As mothers they are faithful, but they will accidentally cripple and kill the young. The same is also true of Cochins—yet we borrowed a Buff

Cochiu pullet last spring that brought off a good hatch, not breaking a single egg.

We have found Wyandottes the best of all—although several Leghorns that became broody not only made good hatches but were faithful mothers. The Wyandottes we find are not only reliable sitters, but they are careful, and not one of them have we found unruly when being handled on the nest. With the same quiet and peaceful disposition of the Brahma, they become models as both incubators and brooders.

\* \* \*

The question has been put to us, why we stick to Light Brahmas, White Wyandottes and Single Comb White Leghorns—"why not test other breeds and tell us which are the best." It would be a difficult and unsatisfactory task. The "best" in poultry is like the "best" in everything else. That which we understand the best is the kind that fills the bill.

We started out with three classes of poultry—Asiatic, American and Mediterranean. We wanted the Asiatics for heavy roasting fowls; the Americans for small roasters and broilers; the Asiatics and Americans for winter eggs; and the Mediterraneans for summer eggs.

For market poultry white feathered fowls are preferred, on account of the absence of dark pig feathers. We chose the Light Brahmas of the Asiatic class, for roasting fowls, as they are the largest and heaviest. We would rather have the Plymouth Rocks for small roasters than we would the Wyandottes, but we choose the white variety of the latter as they best fit the broiler standard, and are creditable as small roasters. We selected the Single Comb White Leghorns for the reason that we wanted a white fowl that would give us a large egg, and besides the pullets sell well in the markets as small broilers during the summer.

We want to make as much as possible out of our two acre farm, and believe that these breeds will best fit our purpose and markets. Beyond that we do not claim them to be the best. During years past we have kept Brown Leghorns, Silver Wyandottes, Plymouth Rocks, Black Langshans, Black Minorcas, Houdans, Partridge Cochins, Hamburgs, Black Spanish, Polish and Games, and have found good in all of them, but for our particular scheme, the breeds we have selected will, we believe, give us the best results.

Last year we were a little doubtful whether Leghorns would do well confined to runs, but the fact that our 30 Leghorn pullets, quartered in one run 16x50 feet, gave us 1794 eggs from January 1 to June 1, averaging 35.8 4-5 eggs per month, or almost 12 eggs per month, per fowl. During this time eight of the Leghorns became broody, five of which we set. So the Leghorns have proved their worth and are now a fixture on the farm.

\* \* \*

We have adopted a new record for our incubator hatches. Printed slips, as follows, are tacked upon the machine when started.

#### INCUBATOR RECORD.

No. ....	No. Eggs .....
Hatch Begun .....	Due .....
Varieties .....	No. Infertile Eggs (first test) .....
No. Infertile Eggs (first test) .....	No. Rejected Eggs (second test) .....
No. Rejected Eggs (second test) .....	No. Chicks Hatched .....
No. Chicks Hatched .....	First Test .....
First Test .....	Second Test .....
Second Test .....	Began Turning and Cooling .....
Began Turning and Cooling .....	Stopped Turning and Cooling .....
Stopped Turning and Cooling .....	Added Moisture .....
Added Moisture .....	Remarks .....
Remarks .....	.....
.....	.....

This gives a complete record of each hatch. When the hatch is done the slip is filed for future reference.

To thus have a history of the hatches made this year, we will have guides to go by next season. If any of A FEW HENS readers can see a chance to improve on our Incubator Record, we should be glad to have them do so.



## Eggs and Egg Farming.

*Fat Hens vs. Laying Hens—The Business Hen—Meet the Market Demands—Good Laying Black Minorcas—Pointers.*

Date the eggs—be honest.  
Large eggs gain customers.  
Market at least once a week.  
Neat packages attract buyers.  
One bad egg condemns the lot.  
The summer eggs will at least pay the expenses.  
The gamblers cannot create an egg trust, thank goodness.  
Two years is the limit of the life of the profitable layer.

It is said that more money is spent in this country for eggs than flour.

Over 80,000,000 eggs are annually used in France for clarifying wine.

Ludlow, the English authority, recommends the cross of Spanish on Redcap for eggs.

The enemies of the fresh egg market, are preserved and tested incubator eggs. Be above that sort of trickery.

W. H. Jenkins says: "I want no stock that when well fed and cared for is not in condition to lay eggs in the winter."

During summer the heavy layers take temporary rests. Nature requires it after the hard work they have performed during spring.

*Inland Poultry* says that every week a car of eggs is shipped from St. Mary's, Kansas, and it takes 61,200 eggs to make up such a load.

Buying a dozen eggs at the store is buying a dozen risks. The wise housewife knows this, and is glad to pay a few cents more for strictly fresh eggs.

It is said that the Chinese so pack fresh eggs that they are eatable when four years old. Our American "speculators" ought to get hold of that secret.

A correspondent in *American Agriculturist* advises feeding eggs boiled, and as hot as possible, where the fowls can get them, as a cure for egg eating.

There is nothing in the theory that several nest eggs in a nest, encourages the hen to increase the pile. The object of the nest egg is solely to induce hens to lay in certain places.

The profitable egg fowl, according to *Farm Journal*, has a small head, slender neck, narrow body, deep in front, rather long shanks, not too heavy, and is active and sprightly.

*Rural New-Yorker* says: "A good hen weighing five pounds lays, during the year, 130 eggs which sell at an average of 11-2 cents each, or a total of \$1.95. It costs 75 cents to feed the hen, so that she pays a profit of \$1.20 for a year's work, or 24 cents a pound."

Some people who keep hens get very little return in the way of eggs; others are fully recompensed. This by the superficial is set down to fickle fortune, says the *British Fancier*. In reality it is because the one person takes some pains in order to induce the hens to lay and the other does not.

Keep the breed of hens that lay the kind of eggs your market demands, and grade as to size and color, says W. H. Jenkins, in *Orange Judd Farmer*; then pack clean, strictly fresh eggs, and ship them to a reliable grocer or commission merchant, and you can soon establish a trade for fancy eggs at fancy prices.

There is little danger of a hen laying on fat, when she is producing eggs in good number, says the *Farmers' Review*, any more than there is of the Jersey cow laying on fat when she is in full flow of milk. But when the hen has ceased to lay and begins to take her summer rest, is the time when the feed must be looked after carefully.

Under date of May 31, F. L. Cowherd, West Virginia, writes: "I want to tell you about my Black Minorcas. I have only a few, but they are remarkable layers, and mature earlier than any fowls I ever saw. I have one hatched January 19, 1898, that is now laying regularly. Can you beat that in any other breed? I never heard anything of the kind before."

A laying hen will consume considerable more food than one that is idle. The amount of grain that a heavy layer will consume varies with the individual, no matter of what breed it may be, says the *American Fancier*. The secret of feeding laying hens for maximum profits lies in close observation by the feeder and intelligent application of the same.

What effect fat has on the development of eggs in the fowl is probably not known, but certainly there is a direct effect. We remember one hen that fattened up till she weighed ten pounds, says the *Farmers' Review*. She was too fat to walk. After laying no eggs for months she was killed. Five pounds of leaf fat were taken from her. An examination of the egg producing parts showed that there were quantities of minute eggs in her, but none of these had started on their course of development. There is no danger of feeding too much food if it be oats or food of similar kind, but corn must be given only in limited quantities or not at all.

## About Broilers and Roasters.

*Why They Failed in Hammonton—Caponizing—Crossbreds—Hint About Killing—Our American Fowls—Mr. Jacobs' Opinion—The Indian Game as a Table Fowl.*

Why broiler raisers in Hammonton failed:

Debt,  
Stale eggs,  
Chilled eggs,  
Carelessness,  
Inexperience,  
Overcrowding,  
Rented ground,  
Boughten eggs,  
Lack of system,  
Too little capital,  
Borrowed capital,  
That tired feeling,  
Poor brooding houses,  
Poor incubator houses,  
Eggs from dunghill fowls.

Quickly fattened poultry is tender.

England places the Dorking in the front rank of table poultry.

No scrubs can equal purebred poultry in size or plumpness of carcass.

Miller Purvis advises a cross of White Minorca and White Wyandotte for broilers.

The French people are no broiler raisers. Their markets call for the roasting fowl.

Houdan, France, is a small town of small poultry farms—and they make the business pay.

There is a uniformity in the shape of the purebreds that is quite unknown even among the best flocks of scrub fowls.

It is a fact that 1,000 pounds of good business hen is about the most profitable half ton of live weight that a farmer can have on his farm, says *Rural New-Yorker*.

J. H. Drevenstedt was practically the first poultryman to extol the merits of the Wyandotte as a broiler fowl. At that time he owned and operated a poultry farm using the Wyandottes exclusively.

Is not the craze for big birds being carried too far? asks *Inland Poultry*. There is no demand for extreme size in the market. The consumer demands a medium, plump fowl, of nice appearance.

The varying shapes of scrub poultry, when dressed, some long and some short backed, and all invariably lacking in fullness of breast, stamp them at once as quite undesirable to would-be purchasers.

The Americans, when they want a fine flavored fowl, look to the Game, says a writer in *American Fancier*. Anyone that has ever tested them will say that the flesh possesses a richer flavor and is far superior to the Asiatics.

In speaking of the Light Brahmas, Capt. W. C. Casey, in an address before the New York Farmers' Club, said: "A cockerel of this breed at three months old is a broiler, and when caponized it becomes a very large and delicious fowl, weighing from 13 to 15 pounds."

The *American Fancier* says the American people are just commencing to find out that a nice young broiler is a delicacy that they cannot well be without, and the prices for broilers and

roasters have been higher than ever before this season. No danger of getting the supply greater than the demand for many years yet.

H. S. Babcock says: "Crossbred fowls, that is, the product of two purebred fowls of different breeds, are among the most profitable fowls for the market man. In the use of them he often obtains harder fowls, better layers, better table fowls, and, in a word, those that are more profitable in every way."

"The proper breed or cross for broilers is a matter of discussion," says P. H. Jacobs. "It is wise to select fowls with plenty of wing, as this indicates muscular power on the breast, and consequently more breast meat. It is very difficult at times to tell whether a broiler is fat or not. We must sometimes decide by running the fingers down the backbone."

A well-known English poultryman thus comments on capons: "I have eaten capon more than once and agree with some of our best poultry authorities that the quality of the fowl had been injured for the sake of gaining a little size, and being able to keep cockerels in table condition till twelve months old or longer. I consider caponizing a piece of useless cruelty, only equaled by the old system of spaying heifers, which happily obtains no longer."

The breast of the Indian Game resembles that of a pheasant or Prairie chicken, says *American Fancier*. The hert of the meat lies on the breast, and this fact, with its bright yellow skin and legs, makes it the broiler fowl. The quality and appearance of the Asiatic and American breeds can be greatly bettered by crossing with the Indian Game. The fast growing quality and plump breast of the Indian Game is added to the large form of the Brahma, Cochin and Plymouth Rock, and makes the finest kind of a broiler.

W. B. Tegetmeier says: "No fowl should be killed until it has fasted 14 to 16 hours. Those birds that it is intended to kill early in the morning, should have both food and water taken away not later than 4 or 5 o'clock the afternoon before. If this is not done, and they are killed full of food, it soon decomposes, turns the bird green, and renders them comparatively worthless. Even if the food has passed out of the crop into the bowels, the fowls will not keep long, as the half digested food in the interior causes them to spoil and give an exceedingly unpleasant flavor."

P. H. Jacobs, in *Farm and Fireside*, says a fowl weighing six pounds, if of large frame, can be made to weigh eight pounds if made very fat. The gain of two pounds is equivalent to the gain of an extra fowl in four. The fat fowls will also bring at least three cents a pound more in market, which means 24 cents gain. The value of the extra food required to gain the two pounds will not exceed eight cents, leaving a clear profit of 14 cents a fowl, which will be quite a sum for a large flock which otherwise would have to be sacrificed if marketed in inferior conditions.

FRANK B. BARKLEY MFG. CO., 835 Old Colony Building, Chicago, Ill., will sell you a Bicycle or Sewing Machine direct from Factory.

**WHITE PLYMOUTH ROCKS**  
Exclusively.  
Stock and Eggs for sale at reasonable prices.  
HANCOCK & CHILD, Salem, N. J.

**NIAGARA FARM**  
Offers Fine Stock Cheap.

1898 breeders must go to make room, only \$1 each. Mammoth Pekin Ducks, White Wyandottes, White Leghorns, (S. C.), Light Brahmas. Eggs, 5 cts. each. Also White Indian Games, White Holland Turkeys, White Embden Geese. Young or old, \$2 each. Eggs 20 cts. each. Pekin Ducklings, six weeks old, 50 cts. each. Can be shipped safely. (Circular.)  
Pea Fowls, Guinea Fowls.

W. R. CURTISS & CO., Ransomville, N. Y.

**Raise Quails.**

There is more money in raising quails than in any other branch of the poultry business. Raise them as common poultry, at \$2.00 to \$4.00 a dozen; or raise them for breeding purposes, at \$3.00 to \$5.00 a pair; or raise them as pets, at \$5.00 to \$25.00 a pair. There is always money in them. The introducer clears \$4,000 a year with ease. Send 25 cents for book, (second edition) now ready, explaining everything; also where to obtain domestic birds. Address,

C. GROSS, Bebra, (Morgan County), Mo.

**EGGS FOR HATCHING.** Our strain of Buff Leghorns have won prizes in England and America's greatest shows. Prolific layers. \$2.00 per 13. C. W. FRANKLIN, Norwich, N. Y.



Editor Drevenstedt, in *American Fancier*, gives caponizing this black eye—and we second every word of it: "That capons are a desirable and superior article of food no one will deny; that they are any better than well-fattened pullets and cockerels, where the latter have been separated as soon as the sex was noticeable, is extremely doubtful. In fact, we believe they are inferior in quality. Besides, the cost of caponizing and the additional time it takes to properly prepare a capon for market, makes this branch of the poultry industry of doubtful value, albeit a few men succeed in getting good prices for a limited supply, the demand seldom exceeding the later."

Capt. Casey says, without prejudice, there is no better table fowl than our own Plymouth Rock and Wyandotte, both being well worth raising either for broilers, roasters or for caponizing. The White Wyandotte is small boned and plump breasted, quick growing and early maturing; add to this that when dressed it is absolutely free from dark pin feathers, and you have nearly a perfect fowl. A cockerel from either variety at six months old will weigh over five pounds, and as capons at the same age will weigh seven pounds or more. Breeds that are the most active and fly the highest, have the most meat on their breast, as the ability to fly implies muscle power, and the muscles are mainly on the breast. The best table fowls may not be the best layers; in fact, there is no breed that combines superiority of laying and table qualities.

### Ducks and Ducklings.

*Water for Ducks—Moisture in the Egg—Washing the Eggs a Mistake—Duck Profits According to Care—Walter P. Laird's Method of Dressing Ducks.*

Pet ducks are rare.

Allow no excitement.

Ducks make no friends.

Inbred stock give weak young.

The Germans love duck eggs best.

Planer shavings make good bedding.

Old and young ducks must have shade.

Late hatched ducks make poor breeders.

Chopped up dandelion is relished by ducklings.

Great injury to ducks is often done by carelessness.

Let the ducks make their own nests in the bedding.

Duck eggs generally pip 36 to 48 hours before hatching.

The duck knows the feeding hour as well as the keeper.

A deep keel gives a more plump appearance to the market duck.

The "Imperial Pekin" and the "Mammoth Pekin" are the same.

Having lights burning in the duck runs keeps the birds quiet at night.

Walking past a flock of ducks with an umbrella hoisted will cause a panic.

The morning feed for grown ducks should be one-half the quantity fed at night.

F. E. Hege says the best matings are one-year-old ducks to two-year-old drakes.

In driving ducks go about it slowly. Excitement makes them weak in the legs.

Neglect will cause a foul stench to the yards, and produce sickness among the ducks.

As soon as a duck yard is empty, sow rye or oats in it. There is no better disinfectant for the polluted soil.

Never try to raise ducklings with hens. They cannot stand the constant exercise the hen compels them to take.

Walter P. Laird says washing the eggs has a tendency to harden the shell and thereby superinduce too much evaporation, thus injuring the vitality of the egg.

Cayenne and other hot, spicy condiments, must not be given to ducks. Cayenne causes ducks to abort their eggs, and if its use is persisted in it will cause inflammation of the egg producing organs.

Walter P. Laird says that in duck eggs there is ordinarily enough moisture to hatch them, but in case the membrane of shell becomes tough, and the duckling has difficulty in freeing itself from the shell, the moisture pan nearest the lamp should be partly filled with water at 110 degrees.

A recent issue of the *Ploughman* says: "Duck raising will pay well for the right person, but it will not pay conducted in the careless way in which hens are managed on the average farm. Hens will lay some eggs if left to shift for themselves, but ducks will not pay a cent unless the owner understands his business and attends to it. They are enormous eaters and quickly consume the profits, besides being a deal of a nuisance unless grown, managed and sold just right."

F. E. Hege, poultry manager of the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station, says: "Ducks have always been reared in or near ponds in our state, and the general supposition is that water in large quantities is an indispensable adjunct, while the fact is that a pond of running water for the old ducks is all that is wanted, and even that is not necessary. It is detrimental to the young, and they should not be allowed to have more than a plentiful supply of cool, fresh drinking water, and even that arranged in such a way that they can only get in their bills."

Walter P. Laird, in *Practical Poultryman*, gives this method of dressing ducks for market: "Market stock when ready are killed by sticking through the roof of the mouth with the blade of a sharp knife, penetrating the brain, well bled and immediately dry-picked. After this is thoroughly done they are placed in tubs of clean water for a few hours. Before packing, ice is placed in the tubs to plump the birds and to free them from all animal heat. After this is done they are weighed, tagged and carefully packed in ordinary sugar barrels, which make a neat package. Six inches of space is left at the top of each barrel which is filled in with ice; the barrel is then nicely covered with a piece of cotton cloth, marked to our dealers, and they are ready for the express company. The birds are never drawn, and the feet and head are left on."

### Turkey Culture.

*The Wild Gobbler—Turkey Feathers—Broilers for the Summer Resorts—The Rhode Island Industry—Diet for Young Turkeys—Heavy Specimens Sixty Years Ago—A Collection of Valuable Facts and Hints.*

Feed on clean surfaces.

The slightest dampness is fatal.

Filth is a foe to young turkeys.

Save the earliest and best for breeders.

Medium sized gobblers are best for mating.

Turkey eggs are usually fertile and hatch well.

Birds with short legs have the plumpest bodies.

Breed from choice old hens as long as they live.

Capons make excellent nurses for turkeys and chicks.

Medium weight turkeys sell best, except for the holidays.

Two-year-old gobblers should be used with two-year-old hens.

Nine-tenths of the deaths of young turkeys are caused by lice.

Three broods of little turkeys are enough to put in a five-acre lot.

Give drinking water in vessels so the young can wet only their bills.

Young turkeys, that is, turkeys one year old, do not produce strong chicks.

Lameness in young turkeys is usually due to flying up and off a high roost.

Half or quarter-wild are better than all-wild gobblers for mating with domestic hens.

After one week old, wheat and ground bone can be added to the young's bill of fare.

An Indiana lady gives copperas in the drinking water for turkeys that have passed worms.

Wild gobblers mate later in the season, and the wild hens lay later than domestic turkeys.

The wild gobbler does not have much red about the head, except during breeding season.

Turkeys are subject to all the diseases that affect chickens, especially cholera and roup.

Gobblers and hens of the same age may be mated, but it is better to have a difference in the age.

Turkeys need no artificial warmth in winter. Although the young turkey is tender the adult is very hardy.

A high roost, in an open shed that faces the south, is better than a closed house for half-grown turkeys.

Much of the decline in turkey raising is due to the use of stock that had become sickly and degenerate from injudicious breeding.

A single union of a male and female fertilizes all the eggs the hen will lay for one season, hence one gobbler will suffice for twenty or more hens.

During the civil war a turkey dealer in Westerly, R. I., received an order from the U. S. Government for 34,000 pounds Thanksgiving turkey for the army.

The Baltimore *Sun* says the turkey trains up to increase his weight and become tender, while the pugilist trains down to reduce his weight and become tough.

Turkeys can be hatched in an incubator and raised to the age of three months in a brooder, says *Poultry and Pets*, but only in lots of twenty-five, as they require constant care.

A mixture of cornmeal, wheat middlings and sifted and ground oats, all cooked, and to which chopped green food is added, is a food recommended by *Poultry and Pets*, for young turkeys after a week old.

Although turkey growing has declined throughout Rhode Island, as well as throughout New England, during the past twenty years, large crop of turkeys are still produced in the southwestern part of the state.

Young gobblers may be distinguished from the females by being heavier, more masculine in appearance, more carunculated on the head, and a development of the "lassets" on the breast, says *Poultry and Pets*. A little experience may be required at first.

Most Rhode Island turkeys are, from the time they are hatched and marketed, fed on old northern white flint corn. They like this the best and fatten the most rapidly on it. It also makes the quality of the flesh finer, more juicy and toothsome.

A correspondent writes that he has remarkable success feeding H-O Poultry Feed to young turkeys. Out of three flocks of 75 to 100 turkeys only two chicks have been lost. The feed is mixed with boiled milk, placed in the oven and baked hard, and then crumbled.

The turkeys grown in Rhode Island have not only long been famous, but they still bring in the New York, Boston and other eastern city markets more than those from any other section. Rhode Island raisers receive 18 to 20 cents for their turkeys alive, and 20 to 25 cents dressed. When good or best western turkeys have retailed in Providence at 14 to 18 cents, Rhode Island turkeys were selling at 28 and 30 cents.

### WHITE WYANDOTTES.

Eggs and Fowls in Season.

WM. H. CHILD, Glenside, Pa.

FRANK B. BARKLEY MFG. CO., 835 Old Colony Building, Chicago, Illinois, will sell you a Spray Pump, Gas Engine or Cider Press direct from Factory.

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100 Envelopes, 100 Note Heads, 100 Tags, sent post-paid, for \$1.40. One M. of each by freight, for \$5.00. Send for prices on other work.

### All for One Dollar!

Profitable Poultry Farming, retail,	-	-	25 Cents.
A Living From Poultry,	"	-	25 "
Broilers for Profit,	"	-	50 "
Farm-Poultry Doctor,	"	-	50 "
A Few Hens, monthly, one year,	-	-	25 "
Total,			\$1.75.

By ordering at once will send the above collection for \$1.00. Address,

MICHAEL K. BOYER,  
Box A, HAMMONTON, (Atlantic Co.,) New Jersey.



Prof. Cushman says turkey broilers weighing from 1 1/2 to 4 pounds each may be sold at fancy prices at near-by summer resorts, in July or August. They bring in Newport from \$1.75 to \$2.25 each. Dealers generally buy them by the pair. As they are lean and tender at this age, and quickly become discolored if put on ice, they cannot be shipped long distances; therefore the local raisers have this trade to themselves.

Turkey tail and wing feathers are made into feather dusters, and "featherbone" manufacturers give from 15 to 25 cents a pound for them, says *Country Gentleman*. Body feathers, used for cheap pillows and mattresses, bring from two to three cents per pound. These should be dry-picked, however. No one that uses scalding water to remove the feathers should expect to get the best price either for his dressed turkeys or their feathers. They bring more if carefully sorted and shipped in bags or shoe boxes.

"The largest flocks that, to the best of my knowledge, have been grown in Rhode Island, were cared for until fall by one of the farmer's daughters," says Prof. Samuel Cushman. Mr. George Tucker probably produces more turkeys than any one else in that state. In 1888 he raised 225 turkeys from 22 hens; in 1889, 306 from 28 hens; in 1890, 240 from 30 hens; in 1891, 322 from 36 hens; in 1892, 425 from 35 hens. In feeding and looking after this number of turkeys, the attendant, usually one of Mr. Tucker's daughters, has to go about three miles to go the rounds. Many farmers' wives and daughters earn one or two hundred dollars each season by caring for turkeys.

In England about 60 years ago, there were exhibitions at which prizes were awarded for the best and largest poultry. At these exhibitions noblemen of the highest rank became competitors. Earl Spencer, in 1832, carried the highest prize for a turkey, which weighed 20 1/4 pounds. One capon was exhibited which weighed 7 pounds and 14 ounces; one pullet, 6 pounds and 3 ounces; one goose, 18 pounds and 2 ounces; one pair of ducks, 10 pounds and 10 ounces. In December, 1822, two turkeys were sent to Cork, one weighing 33 pounds and the other 34 pounds. In December, 1833, three turkeys were sold at Leadenhall market, which weighed 91 pounds, and brought three guineas each. One eighteen months old, and weighing 34 pounds, was sold at the same price.

An exchange gives this diet for young turkeys: Into a shallow pan placed over the fire, pour one pint of sweet milk, into this drop two eggs well beaten, and stir the mixture until it boils and assumes the consistency of jelly. It should be made fresh every day, and in warm weather kept in a cool place, to prevent its becoming sour before evening. After the first few days, and the young turkeys have learned to love this custard, it should be seasoned with a pinch of black pepper, which acts as a tonic. When they are ten days or two weeks old, the custard, after it is thoroughly cooked, may be thickened with the crumbs of soft egg-bread, and after the turkeys are a month old put a pan of fresh milk on the stove, and when it comes to a boil break the egg-bread into it and let it cook until quite thick.

### Geese for Profit.

*Rhode Island Geese—Wild Geese—Geese More Profitable than Sheep or Cows—Care of Goslings—Goose Liver Factories.*

Geese are fond of army worms.

Goslings are easily panic stricken.

Too much grain will produce vertigo.

Geese thrive best on wet, marshy land.

The first eggs of the first litter are infertile.

Keep drinking water constantly before the goslings.

Growing goslings will eat more grass than old geese.

Young ganders are better for breeding than young geese.

Five or six goose eggs make a sitting for a common hen.

Goose dung brings a high price as a fertilizer in China.

Brown China and White China geese are very prolific layers.

Toulouse geese are great layers, and some specimens do not offer to sit.

African geese are objectionable for market purposes on account of dark plumage.

Goslings should not be allowed bathing water until they get their first feathers.

Ganders not over five to eight years old, mated to old geese, give the best results.

Most breeders dress their goslings for market, or sell them to fatteners in June or July.

Emden geese were first introduced into this country in 1821, by Col. Samuel Jaques, of Boston.

Emden geese are more inclined to sit than Toulouse are, and make better mothers, but fewer eggs.

Goslings are rather timid and should not be unduly disturbed or frightened, as it will interfere with their growth.

Young geese do not lay as many eggs and produce as many goslings the first breeding season as they do the second.

African and Brown China ganders mate more quickly than other kinds, and are the most prolific and sure breeders.

There is a good demand for green geese weighing from 15 to 20 pounds per pair, and they should reach that weight at 10 or 11 weeks of age.

Isaac C. Wilbourn & Sons, of Little Compton, are the most extensive raisers of geese in Rhode Island, raising from 500 to 1000 goslings each year.

Prof. Cushman says, in *Farm-Poultry*, that in June it takes about 14 days to fatten geese for market. In the fall, when it is cool, they will eat better and get fat much quicker.

Great quantities of geese have long been reared in the southern part of Rhode Island, and their fame has almost if not quite equaled that of the Rhode Island turkeys in the city markets of the east.

There are several large factories in France where the livers of geese undergo skillful manipulation, and are cased with perfumed Perigord truffle inside block tins or terra cotta pots, and shipped to the four points of the compass.

Several expert geese raisers say that geese pay better than sheep, and William Rankin, who has a large dairy at Brockton, Mass., has found that a good goose under his management pays as well as an average cow.

*Farm Journal* says a mistake is often made at the beginning by feeding the breeders an exclusive grain diet, and the grain mostly corn. They should have vegetables and short clover hay in abundance so they will not become too fat.

If geese are given plenty of vegetables, and are not kept too fat during the winter, they will begin to lay in February or March, and will lay 15 or 20 eggs before wanting to sit, says *Homestead*; some times 30 eggs are produced if the geese have been properly cared for.

The early-hatched goslings must be kept from severe cold at first. As they come out they should be brought into a warm room and wrapped in flannel until all are hatched, says *Farm Journal*. The best time to take the young out of their wraps and put them with the hen is in the evening.

"I know that Chinese geese will breed with tame geese, but I do not believe Canadian geese will," says C. Clifton, in *American Fancier*. "Out here in Montana I have never come across a case of wild geese breeding in domestication, though in England I have known Canadian geese to breed in semi-domestication, when turned loose on a lake with an island on it."

Goslings are ready to eat grass almost as soon as hatched, and will eat a great deal of it, says *Prairie Farmer*. Their grain is much the same as that of chickens, but should contain a large proportion of green stuff. A mash of shorts and cooked vegetables is excellent and may be fed three times a day. When 8 or 9 weeks old, and two weeks before they are to be marketed, they should be fenced up and fed stiff cornmeal dough and beef scraps.

A Montana correspondent in *American Fancier*, says in that country the Canada or Wild geese are fairly plentiful, and breed along the rivers. When the young are nearly full grown, but before their flight feathers have come, they

are easily caught by a man on a fast horse, for if frightened they take to the land to hide and lie flat among some sage brush. When disturbed they run, and can outrun a man easily, but are no match for a cow pony or a horse used in herding cattle.)

Along the shores of Narragansett Bay and the Sound, and especially about Tiverton and Little Compton, geese are more generally kept than in any other part of New England, says the Rhode Island Experiment Station Report. In the region of Narragansett Pier, Point Judith, Westerly, and on Block Island, many farmers raise geese. The young geese are bought in large numbers by dealers who fatten them and prepare them for market with such success that Rhode Island geese bring more in Boston and New York than those from any other part of the country. In fact, the home supply is not equal to the demand, and to prolong the season and fill their orders, dealers are obliged to secure geese in Canada, Prince Edward's Island and other sections of the country.

### Pointers on Food and Feeding.

*Value of Grains—The Overloaded Crop—Overfeeding the Cause of Many Ills—Cottonseed Meal Must be Fed Cautiously.*

Beware of sour food.

Fowls love raw apples.

Wheat—king of egg foods.

Oats—next to wheat in value.

Avoid feeding damaged grain.

Barley—an egg food next to oats.

During rainy weather feed indoors.

The hungry hen is as a rule healthy.

Meat scraps must be kept in a cool place.

Rye—of very little value in the poultry diet.

The morning mash can now be mixed with cold water.

To feed heating food in summer is torture to the fowls.

Fowls having free range need not be fed a morning mash.

Buckwheat—fattening, but fed sparingly is egg-producing.

Make the fowls scratch for their food—even if it is summer.

Do the feeding yourself if you can possibly spare the time.

Mrs. J. L. Todd says hens, like men, like a variety of food.

Neglect in feeding now will make moulting more dangerous.

Be sure to clean out the feed troughs an hour before each meal.

N. D. Forbes, in *Poultry Monthly*, advises feeding the mash at noon.

If greens are not available, keep on feeding scalded cut clover hay.

It is just as important to feed regularly now as it was during the winter.

Fresh water twice a day is a valuable addition to the summer poultry diet.

EGGS from B. P. Rocks and White Wyandottes. Bred for layers. F. E. Bancroft, Groveland, N. Y.

Edwin Snelgrove, 130 Fulton St., N. Y. Prize Winning Blue Andalusians and Light Brahmas.

CUT CLOVER in sacks. \$1.00 for 100 pounds. I. G. QUIRIN, Tioga Center, N. Y.

EGGS. S. C. White and S. C. Brown Leghorn. First quality stock. \$1.00 per 13. A Wooden hen, \$4. W. Hahnan, Box 3, Altoona, Pa.

I. K. FELCH & SON,  
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Light Brahmas, Plymouth Rocks,  
and White Wyandottes,

—BRED ON PRACTICAL LINES.—  
Standard Points and Egg Records Combined.  
Enclose stamps for 24 page catalogue.



# A FEW HENS.

EDITED BY

**MICHAEL K. BOYER,**  
Hammonton, N. J.

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## EDITORIAL.

AS A FEW HENS enters its second volume, it enlarges its size. This is done to fulfill the promise made in the start that we would grow in proportions as the patronage would warrant. The subscription list is fully double what we expected to secure during our first year, and we feel proud of the encouragement given us. During Volume 2, we expect to introduce a number of valuable features, but we shall continue to stick to the brevity plan—giving the cream of poultry information.

Thanking our readers for favors shown during Volume 1, we ask a continuance of the same throughout the new year.

\* \* \*

"Uncle Mike" Boyer says: "Don't store away eggs because prices are low. It is dishonest." Can't agree with you, uncle, and can't see where the dishonesty comes in. On the contrary we consider it good business policy to put fresh eggs in cold storage and hold them for higher prices. Properly kept, they are as good as the average consumer of eggs expects. When fruit, especially grapes, are stored for similar purposes, we see no reason why hen fruit should be barred.—*American Fancier*.

We are surprised to know that Judge Drevenstedt thinks it "good business policy to put fresh eggs in cold storage and then hold them for higher prices." It no doubt is *profitable* work, and if these eggs were sold as storage eggs we would certainly have no grounds to condemn the practice. But the truth is, these stale or semi-decayed eggs are huckstered out as fresh. Not only is the consumer imposed upon, but all poultry raisers who are endeavoring to establish a strictly fresh egg trade are compelled to buck up against these sharks. It is that kind of work that is crippling the prices in eggs, and we are surprised that Judge Drevenstedt, himself an ex-egg farmer, should be so blind as not to see the dishonesty attached to the business of storing away eggs when the prices are low, to be placed upon the market when eggs are scarce, competing with the strictly fresh article.

This work of storing eggs is not done by poultrymen generally, but by hucksters, who go out among the farmers and buy in all the eggs they can get—all ages and stages—and then they are kept several months before they reach the consumer. Yet, Mr. Drevenstedt says, "they are as good as the average consumer of eggs expects." That certainly must apply to cities, for people in the country know too well the appearance,

flavor and merits of fresh eggs to be imposed upon by a stale article. Poor city folks! They are not used to civilized living, and are often fed upon chickens and eggs that we country folks (Reubeus) would not allow to be given to our dogs.

\* \* \*

Editor Drevenstedt has fault to find with the standard for broilers which we published in our June issue. He says:

We have no particular objection to the standard, excepting the color of the skin and the shape of the comb. Consumers, as a rule, do not care a "tinker's dam" whether comb is single, rose, pea or any other shape or style, neither do they care what the color of the skin is. What they do care for is a plump, juicy little chicken that tickles the palate with satisfaction.

Brother Drey did not stop to think. A large comb gives the appearance of age, which, to a certain extent is a drawback in making sales in the markets. If our friend will stop in and interview the markets of New York city the next time he is in that section, he will note the fact that the appearance of the comb has very much to do with the sales, and the less comb the better. As for color of skin, it is true that New York city cares very little if it be white or yellow (and we admit that the color is only a foolish prejudice, much of our best eating poultry being white skinned), yet the average markets in this country call for a yellow skin, and the more golden the better—even New York herself finds no trouble to dispose of such attractive looking carcasses.

\* \* \*

Editor Drevenstedt again did not stop to think. We clip the following from a recent issue of the *American Fancier*:

M. K. Boyer is responsible for the following "A FEW HENS wants to see more practical poultry breeders and less fanciers. It believes that such work means better poultry, better success and better satisfaction. The next move (already nobly begun in Boston) will be for the poultry shows to devote half their space to practical poultry exhibits."

We are at a loss to understand what the learned editor of A FEW HENS had for supper before retiring to his couch and getting away with such a dream as expressed above. So you want less poultry fanciers. Perish the thought! The poultry fancier made the poultry press and the poultry editor. Without him the whole business would go to the "demonition bow-wows." As to practical poultry exhibits taking up half the space at future poultry shows, we think our intensely practical friend is guilty of another wild dream. Poultry shows attract the eye, not the stomach. Thousands of people see nice displays of dressed poultry, eggs and game at our leading markets free of charge, but they cannot see a collection of fowls, pigeons and pet stock except at a poultry show, and consequently are to a limited extent induced to part with a hard earned quarter or fifty cent piece. Just change your menu, Bro. Boyer, and dream of something more aesthetic than a dead chicken show.

Our friend must not forget that A FEW HENS is a "poultry paper for beginners," and when it advises less fanciers and more breeders, it casts no reflections whatever on the many good fanciers in the country, and the work they have done or are doing. It gives the advice to those about *starting*, who are in a quandary to know what to do—whether to engage in the fancy or become a market poultry man. We have enough fanciers—the country is sadly in need of more men to breed poultry for practical purposes. We believe that half-rate fanciers are the ones who are doing the fancy and poultry culture in general, a great injury. Very often the entire stock is confined on a village lot—and from stock thus confined eggs are sold for hatching which produce sickly and miserable offspring.

As to poultry displays at our shows, while it is true dressed carcasses and eggs can be seen free of charge in the markets, the man going to the poultry show to inspect the various breeds, with a view of making a selection, would be doubly satisfied if he could not only see the

variety clothed in its best, but the appearance of the eggs they lay and the carcass they finally give. Such education in a poultry show will not detract one bit from the fancy, but rather help it, and at the same time encourage the market branch.

\* \* \*

Scientific men tell us that an egg is an ounce and a half of concentrated food, made up of lime, soda, sulphur, iron, phosphorus, magnesia, oil and albumen.—M. K. BOYER.

No wonder eggs explode with a dull, un-aromatic thud, when the careless poultryman allows the above elements to prepare for the explosion, instead of shipping them in the shape of nice, fresh-laid eggs.—J. H. DREVENSTEDT.

And yet Mr. Drevenstedt thinks it a "good business policy" to sell preserved eggs!

\* \* \*

Nellie Hawks, in *Poultry Herald*, writing under the subject of "Tested Out Eggs," says:

An infertile egg does not become foul or rotten, even after many days under a temperature from 100 to 103 degrees. But it does become stale, and the one who has tested them out will not use them for home consumption. The thought of eating such eggs is not a pleasant one. Neither would we use them in cake baking, cookie baking or in any other manner of cookery. Is it not, then, dishonest to put them upon the market and accept money for them?

The very suggestion that eggs tested out of incubators may be thus disposed of, lessening in this way the loss to the operators of incubators, should be discountenanced and cried down. For this very thing is practiced quite extensively, if we are rightly informed, and we have statements from different ones to confirm the assertion—individuals who have advocated the course and have practiced it.

Thousands of infertile eggs, tested from incubator hatches the first week, go to market. Bakers especially are anxious to buy them. An infertile egg one week under the temperature of 103 degrees, is equivalent to an infertile egg kept two weeks in the pantry. It is a stale egg, but not necessarily a bad one. Usually, we feed these eggs in mashers to our fowls and chicks, but we so often have applicants among poor people for them, that we do not have many to use. We do not believe in selling them, but rather give to those who can make good use of them.

We are opposed to selling these eggs in market for the same reason that we are opposed to preserving eggs, viz., they are not so good as fresh eggs—and they come in competition with and hurt the fresh egg market. Yet we would rather run our chances in eating a tested infertile egg than one that has been preserved in brine for several months, or placed in refrigerators.

Now if our memory serves us right, it was Nellie Hawks who advocated *preserving* eggs. Putting up cheap eggs in summer to sell at advanced prices in winter. As stated before, if they are sold as preserved eggs, we can find no fault, but to throw them into a fresh egg market, in competition with the genuine article, we say, without a doubt, there is more dishonesty in that method than in disposing of infertile incubator eggs. But we are opposed to both. The aim of every poultry writer should be to boom the fresh egg market, and break down the sales of dishonest goods.

\* \* \*

A FEW HENS is in receipt of a fine testimonial, one that we fully appreciate. It comes from the Agricultural Department, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, and is as follows:

"I have just had the pleasure of seeing a copy (No. 8) of your practical poultry paper, A FEW HENS, and am truly sorry to inform you that in the whole of this continent, with its many thousands of poultry keepers, there is not a solitary organ such as yours, to give advice and instruction how to make a living keeping fowls.

"This country, unfortunately for itself in poultry matters, slavishly follows the old country, hence you will not be surprised to hear that the one solitary poultry journal is devoted entirely to the faucy, blindly for its own inter-



ests catering for the few hundreds who keep fowls for a hobby and to win prizes—to the utter neglect of the many thousands whose object is to improve the egg and meat qualities of their flocks.

"The weekly journals of the various colonies also cater in a small way for poultry breeders, but like the specialist journal fine feathers and other show points are the chief consideration, utility being of secondary importance.

"The climate and conditions of this country are in every way most suitable for the extensive cultivation of poultry, together with cheap foods and good markets, a journal such as yours being the one thing needful to bring the industry from its present low ebb to a position of national importance.

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE BRADSHAW,  
Government Poultry Expert.

As the honorable gentleman backs up his sentiments with a two year subscription, and the purchase of a complete collection of our books, we are assured that the praise is not idly given, but is fully meant.

Mr. Bradshaw is the author of a valuable practical manual entitled "Profitable Poultry Breeding for the Local and English Markets," a copy of which he forwards us. The book is issued by the Australian Government, and the preface by the Secretary announces that the Board of Exports having taken into consideration the fact that local markets can only absorb a limited number of poultry and eggs, some time ago advised the Government to provide the necessary appliances for preparing for export and finding markets abroad for surplus stock, with the result that a profitable outlet has been found in Western Australia, South Africa and Great Britain.

Mr. Bradshaw's book is designed to instruct farmers and others how they can best cater to this new market which the Government has opened, and he goes into detail on the selection of breeds, management, and all the practical parts of the work. We are more than pleased with the able manner in which he handles his subject, and as he practically voices the sentiments of A FEW HENS in the preparation of his book, we shall be pleased from time to time to quote from it. It might be profitable to the U. S. Agricultural Department to secure this publication and pattern after it in its future poultry bulletins.

Editor McReynolds, of the *Southern Poultry Journal*, is a wit: We enjoy his paper, and we applaud his brave assertions. There is nothing two faced about that man McReynolds. He talks right out in meeting. The June number quotes one of our editorials on the growth of the utility ranks, and then, after engaging in a lot of personalities—as, for example; "Michael is not a fool, nor is he so green that he has trouble to keep the cattle off"—he says "A FEW HENS is a daughill paper. Its editor seeks, in every way possible, to belittle thoroughbreds and boom mongrels or crossbreeding." Now editor McReynolds knows that is not so. He is not a careful reader of A FEW HENS. From the very first issue we have advocated thoroughbred poultry, and in every number we point out the mistake in tolerating common or mongrel fowls on the farm. As for crossbreds, we have shown their merits only from a table standpoint. On the farm of the editor only thoroughbreds are used—Light Brahmas, White Wyandottes, Single Comb White Leghorns and Pekin ducks. Not a mongrel can be found, excepting probably a half dozen hens that we bought for hatching purposes, and which will be shortly consigned to the pot.

We are indeed sorry that Editor McReynolds worries so over the success of *Farm-Poultry*, A FEW HENS, and such excellent preparations as Sheridan's Condition Powder, Parsons' Purgative Pills and Johnsou's Anodyne Liniment,

as well as the profitable poultry farms of Editor Hunter and the writer. We enjoy the *Southern Poultry Journal*, find in it much that is useful, and we would regret to see its worthy editor worked into a state of nervous prostration, and thus be deprived from giving us such a valuable paper.

Editor Jacobs paid our experimental farm a visit, and in the June number of *Poultry Keeper* he was not afraid to say what he saw. We wonder if Editor McReynolds saw the full page report in Mr. Jacobs' paper? It might interest him. We make the following selections:

"When A FEW HENS was started, Mr. Boyer conceived the idea of trying an experiment to answer the query, 'Can a man make a living on two acres of land?' There are but two acres of land attached to Mr. Boyer's home, and it is on this that he is working the problem. To date he has already a regular settlement of houses—ten of which are devoted to Pekin ducks—about as large and fine stock as one could wish to see; one house with White Wyandottes, which are making a great record in laying; one house with Single Comb White Leghorns, which Mr. Boyer has produced from two of the best strains in the country; and two houses of Light Brahmas (Felch foundation) which have been specially bred for heavy laying and strong table qualities, and it is wonderful what success he has attained in this line.

"Although Mr. Boyer is a staunch advocate of the utility part of poultry culture, he has birds in the stock he keeps that would make excellent competitors in the show room. A wind mill 70 feet high, with a tank holding 700 gallons, supplies the ducks and chickens with fresh water.

"The purpose of Mr. Boyer's experiment is to raise ducklings, broilers, roasters, and eggs for market; and also sell eggs for hatching in spring and breeding fowls in fall. He is already doing a big business in the latter. On his farm he is taking the place of the beginner and gradually building up a plaut on two acres that is to yield an income sufficient to sustain a family. Each issue of A FEW HENS notes the progress made."

Then Mr. Jacobs gives the illustrations we published in our December issue, and comments on them: "A comfortable home, large lawn, which in spring is covered with crocuses and snowdrops, and later on with roses and flowers of all kinds, and large poplar trees give a delightful shade. This farm is situated right in the heart of the town, about five minutes walk from the station."

Henry Griffeth, Ulster county, N. Y., writes:

"In the May number of A FEW HENS, on page 88, you say: 'The man who undertakes poultry farming simply for the money that is in it, is apt to break his neck in the attempt.'

"If he does not undertake it simply for the money that is in it, or at least for the profit, which is the same thing, will you kindly inform us what he does or should undertake it for? Should it be for amusement? But the person who can find any amusement in cleaning out a hen roost every morning, fighting lice, mixing feed, and doctoring sick hens, to say nothing about many other things he must do to keep the hens going, must have queer ideas of amusement. To the ordinary human being the keeping of hens involves a routine of hard work and light pay with eggs at ten and twelve cents a dozen, and the price of feed advancing."

Our correspondent has not properly interpreted our meaning. It is right that those engaged in poultry culture should be ambitious to make it pay—that is the motto of A FEW HENS. What we meant and what we thought we plainly implied, was that too many engage in the work only for the money consideration, and not for any special love that they have for the fowls and the business. Unless a man is intensely interested—goes into it heart and soul, so to speak—he will not be careful, watchful and successful. "Love lightens labor." Success is built upon a foundation of love.

John Glasgow must be a "bumptious individual" or one of the "small coterie of croakers" (according to the verdict of the *Feather* and the

*Reliable Poultry Journal*) or he would not come out so boldly in the *Poultry Monthly* and venture the opinion that fanciers are running away from utility. John is a fancier; a prominent feature at all the leading poultry shows; the poultry and pigeon manager on the Havemyer farm—and yet he has the gumption to say:

"If you want a rent paying fowl, it is imperative we must have stamina, and it is a notorious fact that many of our best breeders who are exhibitors as well, with a view to accentuate certain feather points, resort to considerable inbreeding to attain it; and although they may gain their point in the show pen, they ruin the constitution of their flocks by so doing to a certainty, and thereby impair the productiveness of the species, and disease and death hold high revel in the yards as a natural consequence.

"In no breed of fowls has utility been sacrificed to mere fancy points more than in the Game fowl of the present day, and the same may be said of others, where so much stress is placed by the judges and the framers of our Standard of Perfection on mere fancy and feather properties, which can only be attained through inbreeding, to which, to my mind, many of the diseases of our poultry are attributable. Breeding in close relationship in poultry is as huge a mistake as intermarrying amongst relatives in the human species. Stamina is bound to suffer, and with it utility."

Yet what John says is so, and all the leading fanciers know it is so, but for business reasons they must resort to Standard trickery to meet their object. Why ruin our breeds for mere points? Keep them pure, breed them to meet the characteristics of the breed, but don't do as a Cochin fancier once told us: "My birds are mated for feather and points—I don't want them to be layers."

The women folks are generally the poultry raisers on our western farms, says Iowa *Homestead*, and some husbands are glad to let them have all they can make out of it. But once in a while we meet men who do not deserve the name of husband. They will allow the women to hatch and raise all the chickens they want to, all the time laughing at the foolishness of the step, but when those chickens get to a marketable size they will begin to complain about the amount of grain the critters are eating, and away to market they go. The check that comes back is carefully pocketed, and the poor women hardly even get thanks. We knew of one case where the farmer sold the chickens his wife raised, for which he received ten dollars, bought himself clothing and tobacco to the amount of five dollars, and stuck the change in his pocket, after giving his wife a dollar to buy a calico dress. Yet this man thought he was doing a wonderful thing. We hope such mean men do not read this paper. We believe they are a benefit to no one. The man who cannot see his wife have a little money should certainly have none himself.

The Montreal *Daily Witness* advises a correspondent to secure all of I. S. Johnson & Co.'s books, and to subscribe to A FEW HENS and *Farm-Poultry*, adding: "We would advise you to purchase them to use as text books. They will give you all the information you need as to building, laying out of yards, feeding, management of fowls and chicks. They should be in the library of every poultry man or woman, whether fancier or amateur."

## Duck Bargains.

I have twenty-five extra choice March and April hatched Pekins, the cream of two hundred, that I must dispose of at once. Have been bred and fed for growth, and are very large. Prices for ducks or drakes, \$1.00, \$1.50 and \$2.00 each, if taken at once. This is a rare chance to secure some fine stock at a low price, as they are easily worth double the money.

E. M. KINGSLEY, Montclair, N. J.



### A Brevity Symposium.

*Opinions From Our Readers on Practical Problems that Suggest Themselves.*

By the "brevity" symposium we mean the opinions in brief, of the leading poultrymen on special subjects that we shall submit to them.

We had fully intended to begin this department in this issue, but as all the replies to our questions did not reach us in time to be presented in this number, we must content ourselves in introducing the subject, and submitting the queries to the general reader.

The idea of the symposium is to get the views of not only the best known authorities to whom we submit them, but also those of our readers who may have had any experience in them. In short, we want this department to be an experience meeting, and we want all to stand up and tell us what they know; but we want those opinions expressed in as few words as possible. We have no room for regular articles.

The questions submitted to the experts, and to which we now call for a general opinion, are as follows:

1. What is the cause of green duck eggs? Is it a sign of impurity?
2. What do you consider should be the prominent parts of a standard for roasting fowls?
3. What branch of poultry culture, or what combination, would you advise for the most profit?
4. In your experience, have you found summer broilers profitable?
5. Do you think the low price in market for early ducks indicates a glut?
6. What reason do you assign for the low prices of eggs in these times of high prices of feed?
7. What plan do you find the most humane in breaking up broody hens?
8. What do you estimate is the cost of feeding a duck a year, and what ration is best for winter feeding, and what for summer?
9. What practical qualities do you assign to the breeds you keep?
10. How many females do you mate to a male in the different breeds you keep, and what percentage of fertility did such matings give?
11. What size runs have you attached to each pen, what is the size of that pen, and how many fowls do you keep in it?
12. What incubators and brooders do you use, and what success do you generally have with them?

Now we not only want our readers to give their opinions on any or all of the above subjects, but at the same time we would like them to suggest practical questions for future issues.

We believe that in this way we can impart information to each other that will be of great value. A FEW HENS wants to be helpful, and the editor fully realizes that he does not know it all. He wants the opinions of the readers so that he may learn as well as they. Give this department a hearty support and it will be the leading feature of our journal.

Pointers on Food and Feeding—Continued.

Clover contains more mineral matter than grain, and the hens relish it highly.

An orchard in summer will furnish almost sufficient food to keep a flock of fowls.

If a storm is approaching in the evening, better feed an hour earlier and escape it.

Feed the breakfast earlier and the supper later than was the rule during the winter.

According to the *Rural New-Yorker*, English hens are fed upon flies taken from South America.

Corn—king of fattening foods; a good heating grain for night feeding in winter; the ideal grain for sitting hens.

The feed while the plumage is growing, both in chicks and moulting fowls, has much to do with their color, says I. K. Felch.

Milk is the best feather and bone producer that can be used on the farm when ground bone is not easy to secure, says *Farm, Stock and Home*.

All mashes should contain both bran and cornmeal, says *Ohio Poultry Journal*. The two alone make a reasonably good mash, but neither should be used to the exclusion of the other. In a mash the greater the variety the better the results.

When the crop is overloaded, too much food is passed into the gizzard to be triturated, and the digestive organs are overtaxed. But when the food is eaten gradually and slowly, digestion is also gradual and the system is invigorated by the exercise of securing the food, says the *Progressive Poultry Journal*.

All small grains are good for hens, especially wheat. Wheat is better than corn, even, excepting when forcing the fattening process for market, admits that corn advocate, the *Ohio Poultry Journal*. Fowls which are confined, either winter or summer, should never be without a feed of green grass or vegetables at least once a day.

L. P. Keyser, in *Ohio Poultry Journal*, says: "I believe there is no grain that will make hens 'shell out' eggs as will Kaffir corn, especially in winter. I think it far superior to wheat or Indian corn, although in many respects its nutritive qualities are similar to the latter. It is well relished, easily grown, or cheap to buy."

Cottonseed meal acts on the reproductive organs rather disastrously if fed in too large quantities, and we believe it is best not to advocate its use as a food for laying hens, says the *American Fancier*. There are so many more desirable grains that are absolutely safe to use that experimenting with a dangerous and powerful irritant like cottonseed meal is not advisable.

Oats are now considered to be one of the necessities on a poultryman's bill of fare; but while they are good feed in the natural state, they are better if fed ground and mixed with scalding water, or what is as well, boiled whole and fed while warm, says the *Michigan Poultry Breeder*. Chickens fed on oatmeal are seldom troubled with weak legs.

We attribute one half of all the ills that beset grown fowls to overfeeding, says the *California Fanciers' Monthly*. Keep a bird with a ready appetite, and broadly stated, you keep it well. Have food constantly about your fowls in some shape or other, so that they never eat with a keen relish, and the chances are ninety in one hundred that they become diseased. They should have enough but not more than enough—that is all there is of it. In the morning feed all they will eat up quick; at noon give a little more; at night feed them all they will eat—no more. Have none left, feed absolutely nothing between meals. All meat, green food, etc., feed at meal time. Where they are confined, give them an inducement to exercise by burying grain in straw or earth, but give the feed regularly, never give too much—and you will get by the rock of overfeeding.

FRANK B. BARKLEY MFG. CO., 835 Old Colony Building, Chicago, Ill., will sell you a Feed Cooker direct from Factory.



## EUREKA NEST BOX

It tells you Which Hens Lay. It is Easy to Build.

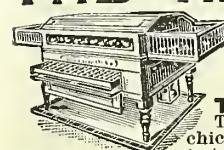
From Cornell Experiment Station, Ithaca, N. Y., Jan. 27, 1898.—The idea of your Eureka Nest Box seems to be a very good one. Yours truly, H. H. WING.

Prof. Samuel Cushman, formerly of R. I. Agricultural Experiment Station, says: "I certainly think your nest box is the most practical and feasible of anything I have seen."

I SELL THE PLANS.

HART NEST YARDS, Framingham, Mass.

## THE HATCHING HEN

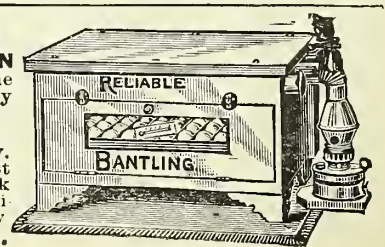


HAS LOST HER OCCUPATION and in the production and brooding of chicks she has been supplanted by the better and every way

RELIABLE INCUBATORS AND BROODERS

They Hatch and Brood when you are ready. They don't get lousy. They grow the strongest chicks and the most of them. It takes a 224 page book to tell about these machines and our Mammoth Reli-

able Poultry Farms. Sent by mail on receipt of 10 cents. Send for it now. Reliable Incubator and Brooder Co., Quincy, Illinois.



### Diseases—Remedy and Prevention.

*Chicken Cholera—Dysentery—Torn Comb and Wattles—Lumber Neck—Gapes—Roup—Chicken Pox—Droopiness—Swelled Eye—Sore Eyes—Enlarged Joints—Diarrhoea in Chicks—Tapeworms—Insect Powder.*

Lice produce disease.

Beware of summer colds.

Cleanliness kills disease germs.

Nip the slight colds in the bud.

Feed onions once a week as a tonic.

Close houses in summer invite disease.

Now is the time to watch for the feather eaters.

Exposure to drenching rain storms bring on roup.

Sumac berries, simply fed, it is said will cure cholera.

Three drops of spirits of camphor on a piece of bread is an English remedy for roup.

A pill of asafoetida, about the size of a pea, given night and morning, is recommended for lumber neck.

Soft food should be fed on clean boards, never on the ground—if you do not want your chicks and fowls to become cankered.

Equal parts of salt, vinegar and lukewarm water is an excellent wash in cases of chicken-pox and roup. Use morning and evening.

Two grain doses of Santomus, six hours apart, is recommended for tapeworms in hens. A teaspoonful of castor oil should be given a few hours after the second dose.

A drop of glycerine is one of the best remedies for sore eyes in chickens. It will also soften and bring the color on shanks and toes that have become dry and harsh.

If your fowls are droopy and not looking bright, the *Michigan Poultry Breeder* advises salting them once a week, by using a handful of salt in a bucketful of water for their drink.

"I mix a little vinegar and black pepper with the chicken feed, and occasionally some chopped onions or garlic, and so am rarely troubled with gapes," writes Ruth Brown, in *Farm Journal*.

For fowls having enlarged joints from inflammatory rheumatism, salicylate of soda is said to be an efficient remedy. Daily doses of as much as will lie on the point of a pocket knife blade.

A well tried and sure cure for chicken cholera, according to the *Progressive Poultry Journal*, is equal parts of antimonic, capsicum and rhubarb. Mix one tablespoonful for every 20 fowls, given in soft food.

For swelled eye this is recommended: Sulphate of zinc, 1-2 grain; sulphate of morphine, 1-2 grain; rose water, 1 ounce. Put a few drops of this into the eye morning and night, and rub it into the face two or three times a day.

A correspondent in *Poultry Keeper* uses sweetened water for lumber neck in fowls, which he squirts in the throat by means of a medicine dropper. He uses a teaspoonful of sugar to a wine glass of water, for three or four fowls.



The root of calamus or sweet flag, according to the *Ohio Farmer*, is a cure for chicken cholera. Procure some of the roots and grate them on a horseradish grater; mix these gratings with moistened bread crumbs and force small lumps of this down their throats. Also feed some gratings to the rest of the flock.

The *Ohio Poultry Journal* says: "When chickens are affected with dysentery, feed boiled milk with ground nutmeg in it. This is a cheap and safe remedy. By adding a beaten egg and a little *spiritus frumenti*, the poultryman will also have a remedy for all bodily ills." That's all right—"egg nog" is good for man and bird!

The *Reliable Poultry Journal* says a Quincy man highly recommends common baking soda as a remedy for severe dysentery and for cholera in fowls. Mix the soda in water, using plenty of it, and pour a tablespoonful down the throat. Repeat this dose three times a day until the fowl recovers. Three to six doses should work a cure.

When comb and wattles of fowls are badly torn in a fight, *Ohio Poultry Journal* says wash the sores with whisky, after which coat them with vaseline. Give internally a raw egg beaten up, to which add 10 to 12 drops of whisky. In case of slight bruises, merely washing the sores with warm water and then coating with vaseline will prove effective.

The *American Poultry Advocate* says a good, cheap and effective insect powder can be made as follows: Two pounds of tobacco dust, two pounds of sulphur, one ounce of carbolic acid. Mix and allow to stand 24 hours, when it can be pulverized and be ready for use. This proportion could be mixed with an equal quantity of fine road dust and still be strong enough for the purpose.

J. C. Baker, in *Inland Poultry*, gives this remedy for diarrhoea in chicks. Take of "May Apple" root (*Podophyllum Peltatum*) a piece three or four inches long, place it in drinking water, preferably in an inverted can placed in a shallow pan. Renew the herb every third day until all traces of the ailment has disappeared. It will act as a tonic to the well ones as well as a great remedial agent to the ill ones.

W. L. Powell, Kansas, writes: "I have just read what you say in A FEW HENS about gapes, as regards tainted soil, etc. I will say that this particular part of Kansas is sandy, especially this city. We are located on the Arkansas river, three miles from the south line of the state, adjoining Oklahoma, and I have seen it rain here during the night, and the dust fly before noon the next day. I have lived here 15 years and have never seen or heard of a case of gapes in this country in that time."

A subscriber to A FEW HENS, living in Worcester, Mass., writes: "Wou't you please try using oil of cedar for lice on one of your setting hens? I use it on my breeding canary birds and keep them free from lice. Saturate the nest box and nest material thoroughly with it. Add a few drops to some sweet oil, and apply to the hen on the head, neck, base of tail and well under the wings. When the hen comes off to feed, apply a little fresh oil to the box again. The lice won't stay where they can smell it. I should think the greens from a cedar tree would be fine for the bottom of nests, with a little straw on top. Please try this on just one, and report in A FEW HENS of the success or failure. It works so well on the birds, it must be some good for the hens." As we have about finished incubation with hens, won't some of our subscribers give it a trial and report?

## Artificial Hatching and Brooding.

Cooling the Eggs—The Bran Box—Testing the Thermometer—Pointers Worth Remembering.

"Me an' my old 'oman,  
Are both science haters;  
We've tried incubators  
For early chicks of spring.  
We studied and we toiled,  
But the eggs were all hard boiled  
By the scientific thing."  
—*Atlanta Constitution*.

Beware of cheap incubators.  
Begin with a 100-egg machine.  
Better kill the weak chicks at once.

We don't believe in helping chicks out of the shell.

The fresher the egg the smaller the air-cell at first testing.

Remember the room as well as the incubator needs ventilating.

More small-sized and less large-sized incubators should be the rule.

No heat is needed in the brooder for July and August hatched chicks.

Buy 100-chick brooders, but keep no more than 50 chicks in one of them.

Keep the incubator door closed while you have the eggs out of the machine.

During summer hatching test frequently so as to notice the drying down of the air-cell.

Remember you cannot know all about artificial incubation, even in a whole year's experience.

Nellie Hawks is right—"systematically cooling the eggs is imperative for good, strong chicks.

Don't buy second-hand machines unless you know for a certainty that they are not in some way damaged.

Slamming a door or jarring the room by heavy walking over the floor, when an incubator is run above ground, jeopardizes the hatch.

A chick that cannot free itself from the shell by the twenty-first day, is hardly worth worrying over. Better throw the egg in a bucket of water.

We have said it before—but it bears repeating—brains are not sold with incubators. It requires intelligence and care to operate the best machine on the market.

Some incubators have a nursery under the egg trays, and the chicks drop below as hatched. Put some soft material on the floor of the nursery whereon the chicks can drop, or you may have cripples from the fall.

Don't guess at the matter in cooling down eggs. After taking the tray from the incubator quickly turn the eggs and then place the thermometer on them. When the temperature reaches 90 degrees return the eggs to the machine.

Cool, twice a day, down to 85 or 90 degrees. At first the drop will be made in a few minutes, but towards the end of the hatch, especially during summer weather, it will often take an hour to get the temperature from 103 to 90 degrees.

Thos. F. Rigg, in *American Poultry Journal*, advises placing a small box of wheat bran in every brood coop, so it cannot get wet, and the chicks can help themselves at will. Bran is valuable as a bowel regulator. Mr. Rigg says: "I want to say that the dreaded bowel trouble which affects chicks so generally during hot summer months, and annually carries off a large per cent of chicks, can be held down to almost nonappearance by the use of the bran box."

When hatching chicks in an incubator be sure your thermometer is correct. To test it, says *Mirror and Farmer*, place the bulb under the wing of a hen, close to the body, and it should record 104 degrees. It makes no difference whether the hen is broody or not, but it is best to test it with several hens. If it records 100, run it at 100, as that figure really records 104, and means that your thermometer is incorrect, but that makes no difference to you, as you can allow for it.

## Notes in Passing.

*News in the Market Poultry World—Hints that May be of Value—Paragraphs from Our Exchanges.*

France has a poultry school.

Give the farmer better fowls.

It never pays to ill-treat a fowl.

The wise poultryman always looks ahead.

English poulterers love the crossbred hen.

Carelessness is more dangerous than disease.

Frizzled fowls are a freak, and noted only for their oddity.

There is less profit in half-starved hens than in those too fat.

Do not let a Sunday come with the hen house full of droppings.

Nests made with sawdust are recommended by some poultrymen.

Throwing the head of the fowl to the dog may teach him a bad habit.

Many a delicate wife has been made rugged by being given the care of fowls.

Do not allow your temper to arise at every shortcoming, or every time matters look contrary.

The man who preaches four-year-old hens and over, is not generally a successful poultryman.

If you do not love poultry enough to give them the proper care, you had better go out of the business.

If farmers and poultrymen generally would use more business judgment they would be more successful.

The qualifications for a successful poultryman are patience, perseverance, pluck, enterprise and capital.

It is said that a newspaper burned in the coop before putting in the chicks, will drive the dampness out.

If your wife or daughter have charge of the poultry, lighten the labors by doing the heavy work yourself.

There is no objection to new breeds if the new ones will give us something better than what we have already.

The American idea is hardiness and utility, and any fancier who ignores those qualities is certainly un-American.

Carelessness, shiftlessness, and a hap-hazard way of doing things, will soon collapse the most profitable business.

"If small details are not strictly attended to," says Wm. Cook, of England, "poultry farming will be an utter failure."

Do not tolerate the hired man who merely works for wages. The man who takes an interest in the work is worth big pay.

The broom that is cast aside by the housewife will be just the thing to use in the henneries. By all means have a broom.

Put up a sign, "No Visitors," until you have put the house in order. Filthy quarters may make visitors give you a bad name.

If a man is easily vexed, and of a hasty disposition, he will have a hard road to travel. Patience should be his watchword.



### HATCH CHICKENS

WITH THE MODEL

## EXCELSIOR

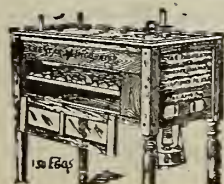
INCUBATOR.

Simple, Perfect, Self-regulating. Thousands in successful operation. Guaranteed to hatch a larger percentage of fertile eggs, at less cost, than any other Hatcher.

GEO. H. STAHL, Patentee and Sole Manufacturers, 114 to 122 S. Sixth St., QUINCY, ILL.



Lowest Priced First-class Hatcher made. Most efficient small incubator ever invented. Perfect in every detail. Just the thing for poultry raising on a small scale, 28 egg capacity. Catalogue free.



## THE STAR INCUBATOR.

(Invention of G. A. McFETRIDGE.)

Perfect in Regulation, Ventilation and Radiation.

Catalogue Free.

STAR INCUBATOR and BROODER CO., Bound Brook, N. J.



Remember there is no effect without a cause. If things go wrong on the farm look for a reason, and when found apply the remedy.

*Inland Poultry* says it is refreshing to meet at times men who are modest enough to admit that there are yet things which they can learn.

Filth and lice are companions. One cannot do business without the other. Do not cultivate their friendship, but rather wage war against their existence.

Do you stick the hen money in your pocket while your wife does the work. If you do, never let us hear you preach against capital oppressing labor.

Farmers are better fixed for making poultry work successful than the city and town people, yet as a rule they are the most careless in the matter.

Keeping birds year after year just because at one time they were grand layers, is a costly and unwise practice. Let there be a "survival (only) of the fittest."

A man who is easily discouraged will never make a success; neither will a reckless worker. It is the careful, painstaking individual that manages the plant so that it yields a good income.

Taking separate branches in poultry culture, and depending upon them for a living, is about as risky as the man on the farm who would devote all his land, time and money to but one crop.

We cannot well avoid all misfortune. There are set backs to the most experienced men. But if one will carefully note each stumbling block, and will try to get at the root of it, the chances are that he will soon master the difficulty.

Crests on the heads of breeds, or feathers on their legs, are mere ornaments. Their presence have no effect on the egg yield. The only reason for retaining them is that they are the trade marks of the race of fowls to which they belong.

Some of the old poultry books that are offered for sale by large firms and publishing houses, should undergo a revision to make them up to date. For instance, one of them tells us that Plymouth Rocks are rarely found outside of New England.

Poultry shows give the industry a substantial boom, says *Wisconsin Farmer*, and if fanciers will now so breed their stock that these shows can demonstrate the commercial as well as the fancy value of the different breeds, poultry culture will assume a new life.

You cannot do impossible things with poultry. You cannot neglect it. Well cared for, a man can make a good living with hens; there is no fortune in their keeping, but there is a good, steady occupation. But if not given the best of attention they are a loss.

If you want to start a poultry plant, do not buy up a lot of common old hens. You will never succeed if you do. We know of a man who bought 600 dunghills, expecting to cater to a winter egg trade, but he didn't get enough eggs to supply his own household.

It is right that we have fanciers, says *Iowa Homestead*, for they keep up the standard of our breeds; but we certainly have no use for those fanciers who are continually sacrificing the good commercial points of a breed in order to win in scores that merely tell of beauty.

No one should enter a business for which he has no special love. Engaging in an occupation merely because you think there is a lot of money in it, is generally a good way to be disappointed. If a man performs his duties in a mechanical way, he will not do his work rightly.

Be not feverish, but persistent in effort, and the old home will become a paradise, says I. K. Felch, and the poultry and egg producing give you more pleasure than you could find in any other calling, and for which, we think, you would not exchange it for the corn crops, telegraph stocks or gold.

Purebred poultry should be on every farm; they require less food, on an average, than scrub poultry, and, as before stated, the scrub stock cannot compete with them in quantity of meat or eggs, says the *Baltimore Sun*. If they are, however, given scrub treatment, they will yield only scrub results.

The French Department of Agriculture reports that the income derived by the people of France from the rearing of fowls, is over

\$70,000,000, exclusive of all meat and eggs sold direct to consumers from the yards, or used by the breeders themselves. This is simply the return through the regular market channels.

The *Northwest Farmer* says: "It takes as good a head to raise poultry as it does to fill almost any average position in industrial life." That is so. You can pretty well measure a man's brains by the system and business principles he exercises on his farm. A good poultryman is necessarily a man of brains.

We want better egg records, and we want better carcasses, but it does not seem to have occurred to the average poultryman that it is far easier and better to secure or increase those qualities in the breeds we have, by proper care and mating, than it is to manufacture something new with the desired traits.

"Crowding is a foe to thrift." How true is that maxim. When farmers once learn that a flock of 25 hens will be more profitable than a flock of 100, they will find more ready cash in the business. Crowded quarters invite disease, grow lice, make hens unprolific, and soon make the venture a financial failure.

For a man to undertake a business he knows nothing about, and to expect good wages from the start—is a sure road to failure. Where would the poultry business be today if every one who undertook the work succeeded? No, poultry farms cannot be started in a day. They must grow from small beginnings. They require capital and experience.

The country is increasing in population, and other causes increase the demand for poultry meat. Every year the supply of wild meat and game is growing less. Wild ducks are less in numbers. The game laws keep them out of the market a large share of the year. This want is being supplied by an increased production of tame birds.

Summer or winter, see that the fowls do not become drones; tolerate no loafers. Idleness leads to feather-pulling and egg-eating, idleness makes hens overfat and induces apoplexy, vertigo and indigestion; it makes the hens lay soft-shelled eggs, miniature eggs, double-yolked and other curiously formed eggs—but in most cases the result is no eggs at all. It will not pay you to keep such stock.

The *Northwest Horticulturist* says there are a number of qualifications necessary in the make-up of an all-round poultryman. First, he must be possessed of a wonderful amount of stick-to-it-iveness; the words "failure" or "can't" must not be allowed a place in his vocabulary, and he must make up his mind at the beginning that he is going to succeed at all hazards, making cleanliness, industry, economy and common sense four corner posts.

If the poultry raiser will make it a cast iron rule that none but strictly hardy stock will be used for breeding purposes, he will find each

year that it is becoming easier to raise the chicks after they are hatched. The most successful poultrymen will not breed from a bird that once had a serious sickness. Why not build up a strain of hardy fowls rather than a family of puny, sickly creatures? Begin right.

There are said to be 400,000,000 fowls in this country, and the bulk of them are common stock, although here, as in other kinds of domestic animals, the value of improved breeds is recognized, says *Live Stock Indicator*. The road to steady improvement in the profitability of this large quantity of poultry is to bring it up as close as possible to pure breeding in all useful points, avoiding the merely fancy ones that are so often obtained at the cost of usefulness.

There are too many who go by "luck." "It's just my luck!" "I have no luck at raising my chicks." Such expressions reach us every day. The truth is they are doing the work in too much of a mechanical way. They do not stop to think. They do not take the time to notice the little matters. They are also hurrying to get done. Too many assume too much work. They keep too much stock; they crowd in small quarters, and their flocks are too large.

A series of experiments undertaken at the New York Experiment Station, made it very conclusively appear that where hens were kept without a male, eggs were produced at about 30 per cent less cost than exactly similar pens where cocks and cockerels were kept. In some pens, too, the production of eggs was nearly a third larger in pens where no males were kept than in others of precisely the same kind, managed in the same way, except that the presence of no male was permitted.

Mr. Tegetmeier, the English authority, says he has travelled far and failed to find a poultry farm that survived the second year. That no doubt may be true of England, but in the United States a hundred or more poultry farms have been in existence for quite a number of years, many of them ten years each and a few longer. It is remarkable that England should be the pioneer of poultry culture, and yet America has solved the problem of making it a means of livelihood.

"But to you, young man on the farm," writes Uncle Isaac Felch, "if you have \$500 or more, you settle down on the old homestead and commence the work of chicken culture, and work up the business, growing with it; and its limits will be the measure of your energy and business tact. Beef rules high; colossal fortunes are made in its production. Chicken meat costs no more to produce, and poultry rules in price with the best cuts of beef, therefore the margins in it are far greater."

Judge G. O. Brown says: "What has done more harm and caused more distrust among farmers and others, causing them to have a lack of faith in the utility qualities of purebred fowls, are the forced and pampered specimens that have been sold at exhibitions. In order to get specimens ready, especially for the early winter poultry shows, they are absolutely crammed with food and forced into show condition. This is especially the case with the heavy breeds. The standard weights are too much on the "fat stock" show order. With few exceptions the Asiatic fowls that are up to the standard weight at the shows are rarely retained after then for breeders. Eggs from an overfat hen are not to be depended upon for hatching."

## WHITE WYANDOTTES.

Fine Stock. Wm. F. Stroud, Merchantville, N. J.

FRANK B. BARKLEY MFG. CO., 835 Old Colony Building, Chicago, Ill., will sell you Carts, Wagons, Buggies, Carriages and Harness direct from Factory.

## CUT CLOVER HAY

\$2.00 per 100 pounds. 50 pounds, \$1.10. Best on the market. Send for circular. WOODHID FARM, Fox Chase, Philadelphia, Pa.

## BARGAINS in BRAHMAS

To make room for growing stock, I will sell three breeding pens of Felch Light Brahmias (five hens and one cock—yearlings) for \$12.00 each. They are bred for heavy laying and combine all the attractive characteristics of the breed.

MICHAEL K. BOYER, Hammonton, N. J.



**INCUBATORS.**

Gold and Silver Medals  
Blue and Red Ribbons.  
Diplomas and Sweepstakes.

Our 1898 catalogue tells you all about the world's greatest Incubators and Brooders. Send for one. All machines warranted.

**PRAIRIE STATE  
INCUBATOR CO.,  
HOMER CITY, PA.**



We shall be glad to see the day when the American Standard will pay some attention to utility and not all to beauty, says the *American Stock-Keeper*. As it is, it makes no difference whether a hen ever produced an egg in her life, if she shows the proper shape and plumage she wins the prizes, and there is no incentive for the fancier to make any effort looking toward prolificacy. In fact, so strenuously does the Standard insist on mere fancy points that a very large number of breeders are tempted to inbreed to an extent that very materially interferes with egg production, and some of the breeds have been bred for fancy points so long that as egg producers they are dropping to the bottom of the list. This is notably the case with the White Faced Black Spanish.

The business hen is the hen that gives us faithful performance in the nest as the business cow does at the pail, says Iowa *Homestead*. Hens are built for laying, and after giving us the supply of eggs they yield their carcasses as good measure. Why should not a hen be profitable? If she lays from one to two eggs a week at the average year-round prices she pays her board. With good treatment she will add an egg or two extra a week, and thus give clear profit. She will, in addition, raise from two to six broods of chicks in her life time, and finally give up her carcass at a valuation of from fifty cents to a dollar, for roasting purposes. Verily, the man who cannot make poultry pay is a poor business man, and therefore does not deserve the cooperation of the business hen.

### Sitting Hens and Little Chicks.

*Should the Broody Hen be Set Twice in Succession?—Hatching by the Sun.*

Some wonder, "Does it pay a man  
To set a broody hen,  
And after she has hatched the chicks,  
To set her once again.

Without allowing time for rest,  
"Twixt broods to intervene,  
As nature gives the mother hen  
Her well-hatched chicks to wean?"

Now nature has a certain time  
In which all eggs should hatch;  
There's ne'er a hen that should be forced  
To brood the second batch.

Besides, I'm pretty certain,  
You can make it pay you best,  
To give between each hatch  
An interval of rest.

For nature is our truest guide  
In what we ought to do—  
I think the hen should have a rest  
Brother poultrymen, do not you?  
—H. M. French, in *Poultry Farmer*.

Range makes chicks grow.

Lice attack the weak chicks first.

Not all weak chicks are killed by lice.

It is akin to cruelty to make the hens set twice in succession.

Chicks confined to runs must have meat and green food supplied them.

At least once a week give the confined chicks finely ground green bone.

Where green food is scarce, Pioneer Clover Meal makes a good substitute.

Did you ever note that in all life, pests seem to worry the strongest the least?

Unless you can set the hen outdoors under a tree, better stop summer hatching.

Take away the hen as soon as she begins to lay—the weather is warm enough now for even quite young chicks.

F. N. Buckley, Elmira, N. Y., writes to the *Reliable Poultry Journal*, that he had a hen sitting on a nest of eggs, and for some reason the old bird became discouraged and left the place. He placed the eggs in the sun under an old window, and was rewarded by the advent of ten strong, healthy chicks. The truth of this statement, he says, he can vouch for.

**WANTED!** An experienced poultryman to manage the best equipped poultry farm in the west; on salary or partnership basis. Married man preferred. Work for wife. References. For particulars address, Cedar Lawn Duck Farm, Topeka, Kansas.

### Notes in Passing—Continued.

The business hen is not lazy even in hot weather. But how about its keeper?

One of the secrets of successful breeding, says *Rural World*, is the art of culling.

The feathers on the feet of very young chicks in Asiatics indicate the amount of feathering they will have there when grown.

If you are done hatching for the season, take the male birds out of the flocks and keep them separate until after moulting season.

Put your ear close to the body of a fowl on its roost at night, when all is still, and you can hear the grinding of the food in the gizzard.

One should learn to creep before he walks, in poultry as in any other business, says *Country Gentleman*. Master the numerous details step by step, and eventually master the business.

As long as improvement continues there will be something to learn, says the *National Fancier*. Don't say you know it all, we know better. The poultry business is a big thing.

Theodore Sternberg writes: "I tell you, I honor the hen; and she, if given half a chance, will pay every mortgage in this country and buy exchanges enough to knock the spots off the city mortgages."

Raising poultry is a peculiar and at the same time a fascinating pursuit, says E. O. Roessle. The person who enters into it must, above all, have a great fondness for it. It at no time becomes mechanical or commonplace.

It is time now to reduce the flock by selling or eating them, says Texas *Farm and Ranch*. There is no sense in feeding a lot of dead-heads all through the summer and fall, in order to get a few eggs next year some time.

O. P. Greer writes: Many beginners are not satisfied until they try all the varieties in the standard, and some that are not yet admitted. Better settle down to one popular variety, unless you are in the business for fun or pleasure.

Dog breeders call a pup obtained by crossing two thoroughbreds a cur. Then, as a parallel, the offspring of two thoroughbred fowls would be a mongrel. Therefore it is wrong to call a scrub or common fowl a mongrel, or vice-versa.

The French claim that the Houdan will dress proportionately one-fifth heavier than any other fowl, says Coleman's *Rural World*. Like the Dorking, they are very light in bone, and the breast is heavily meated with fine-grained white flesh.

The *American Poultry Advocate* thinks if the penalty for selling decayed eggs were a heavy fine, or the penitentiary, a vast crowd of trades people who don't know how to tell a good egg from a bad one, would speedily discover a way to do it.

Light in the poultry house is an absolute necessity, says the *American Poultry Advocate*, and the inmates must have it to be in a healthy and cheerful condition, for fowls will not thrive in a dark and cheerless place any more than plants will.

E. O. Roessle says poultry raising for profit, when it takes the nature of a business, can be compared to no other pursuits of a similar object, and must, like all mercantile ventures, be run on business principles, or certain failure will be the result.

J. H. Drevestedt writes: Shade and pure water are indispensable now. Where natural shade is not at hand, artificial screens or sheds must be provided. A chicken may not know enough to go in the house when it rains, but it does know enough to get out of the sun.

The elevation of the general run of poultry in market value, in the way of quick growth, large size and prolific laying, are the cardinal points that should be kept in view, says H. B. Geer, in *Rural World*. And for this purpose the thoroughbred is useful and valuable, and is serving a good purpose when handled properly.

What is needed foremost is to bring our thoroughbreds up to the highest type of hardiness and utility, and then for the poultry farmer to use only fowls that are strictly pure in blood, says a writer in *Farm-Poultry*. Until then, poultry farming will be more or less an uncertainty. Where good blood is used we see success.

There may not be any very large fortunes in poultry raising, says E. O. Roessle, in *Country Gentleman*, but there is a handsome living for any one who has the love for the pursuit, the ability to raise and care for stock, and a small capital to start with. These three things must go hand in hand; separately, they can not bring success.

In "impressions" England takes the lead at present, says an exchange. Some clever genius over there has discovered that the color of the shell of a hen's egg is influenced by the breed of the cock with which she is mated. We cannot offer anything that will eclipse this just now; but we have confidence that American ingenuity will in the end be triumphant.

**FOR EXCHANGE.** No. 8 Mann Bone Cutter. In perfect condition; for good stock in Pullets, Hens or Pekin Ducks. F. S. Rice, Maplewood, N. J.

**For Sale or Exchange.** 150-egg Incubator; 140-chick Brooder, m'd. by Geo. H. Stahl, Quincy, Ill. In perfect order. J. D. STAPLES, Huntsville, Miss.

**WANTED!** A sober, industrious Poultryman. One who thoroughly understands handling Pekin Ducks, Incubators, Brooders, etc. Give reference. Walter P. Laird, Supt., La Vista, Norfolk, Va.

### Raise Quails.

and make one to two thousand dollars a year. Introducer cleared four thousand dollars a year with only one man to help him occasionally. Send 25 cts. and read the history of the introducer. It's only a small book, but it will tell you all about quails and how to raise them for profit. Address,

C. GROSS, Bebra, (Morgan County), Mo.

**AN UNPARALLELED RECORD.** At America's greatest show, New York, '98, also at Boston, this season. At the latter show, on two entries of Turkeys, won two 1sts, and \$10 special for best pr. At New York, on four entries, won four 1sts. 1 egg for hatching from this stock, 40c. each. Best strains of Pekin, Aylesbury and Muscovy Ducks, Toulouse and African Geese, Ind. Games, L. Brahmas, B. and W. P. Rocks, Wh. and S. L. Wyand., Wh., Brown and Buff Leghorns, Black Minorcas, White and Pearl Guineas. Write for 32-page catalogue, free. Choice Stock for sale. "Agent for Lee's Lice Killer."

D. A. MOUNT,  
PINE TREE FARM, JAMESBURG, N. J.

## TO MAKE HENS

lay, feed them properly. A hen is a machine for turning food into eggs. How to get the most out of the machine is told in the literature which we mail free to all poultry keepers. Send your name and address.

**FITCH FERTILIZER WORKS,**  
Bay City, Mich.

## FARM-POULTRY.

The Up-to-Date Poultry Paper.

This paper is edited with great care. The publishers spare no expense to make it the leader among advanced poultry papers. It contains the experiences and observations of the life work of many breeders. There is no investment a poultry breeder can make, which will afford as much value for the money as a yearly subscription to *Farm-Poultry*.

Published twice a month. Price, one year one dollar. Sample copy free. We have arranged to club it with Mr. Boyer's new paper, *A Few Hens* (price 25 cents) both one year for only \$1.10.

Send orders either to MICHAEL K. BOYER, Hammondon, N. J., or the publishers below.  
T. S. JOHNSON & COMPANY, Boston, Mass.



**POSITIVE MONEY MAKERS**  
THE NEW STYLE SUCCESSFUL INCUBATOR  
AND BROODER. Our NEW CATALOGUE and BOOK on  
POULTRY tells all about them and many OTHER THINGS the  
poultry man should know; worth a dollar but we send it for  
6c. in stamps. Address the **Des Moines Incubator Co.** Box Des Moines,  
Iowa.





There is a great difference between a mongrel and a scrub fowl, says a poultry writer. The mongrel may be a large composite fowl of pure blood—that is, may be made by a cross of pure bloods or a cross of pure bloods upon common stock. In either case it is removed from a scrub, which is a measly, little, common fowl, without a trace of good blood in its composition.

The California *Fanciers' Monthly* says in Nicaragua there is a poultry fancier who himself lives in a house built high up in a big tree. His chicken house, suspended by a rope, is there also. It is let down to the ground in the morning, the chicks run out, come back to roost at nightfall, and then are hauled up, house and all, 60 feet from the ground, out of harm's way.

To change males in a flock each year, would be called suicidal work in standard breeding, but it is good commonsense in practical culture, says *Farm Poultry*. Such a proceeding might not retain characteristics, but it will impart vigor and strength, to say nothing about profits. Outcrossing can be resorted to in unprofitable poultry, providing the following year males of the same breed are again used.

As a utility journal, the *Poultry Farmer* would be glad to see a "dead meat" department, with a good expert poultry dealer as judge, in every poultry show, so that visitors and producers might both learn what breed and what age, and as far as possible, what management will make a good table bird of the various kinds demanded by the consumer, and what preparations for market make poultry most attractive, most satisfactory to the consumer and most remunerative to the producer.

Robert A. Braden says any person interested in the hen and her product, who travels much and is observing, cannot fail to notice the immensity of the business. It is eggs, eggs everywhere. The country store is crowded with them; every railroad platform is piled high with egg cases; there are train loads of eggs and poultry. Steamboats running from Dayton, Ohio into Pittsburg carry tons of fowls every week, and thousands upon thousands of dozens of eggs. This, though, is a drop in the ocean compared with what goes into the large eastern cities.

Texas *Farm and Ranch* says: "For actual utility, the same rule should be applied to fowls as to other stock—that performance is of more importance than pedigree or breed. Many of the best milk and butter cows, and many of the fastest trotters are neither registered nor eligible. They are of mixed blood or they may be only improved mongrels. Fowls bred for eggs should be the offspring of parents carefully selected for egg-producing capacity. Then if they happen to be of pure blood all the better. But it will not pay to breed from a 96 point bird which lays three eggs a week, except for show prizes. Select breeding stock for the qualities desired in the progeny, whether they be external markings or internal productive powers." A FEW HENS offers an amendment: such hens must be pure bred. We think that a 96 point hen that can be gotten to lay three eggs a week is worth having. The best layers won't average more than that.

### People We Know.

*Facts and News Gleaned Especially for A FEW HENS About People We Know.*

The *Feather* sports a new heading and title page.

The *American Fancier*, in its new dress, looks as neat and prim as a new country parson.

*Inland Poultry* is greatly improved under the able editorial management of Thos. W. Pottage.

The June issue of *Agricultural Advertising* is devoted to live stock and is a most valuable issue.

*Fanciers' Advertising*, Easton, Pa., is a new one, devoted to bright ideas in advertising for fanciers.

Brook's Patent Spraying Devices are valuable to poultrymen. Address Novelty Works, Oak Point, N. Y., for circular.

F. H. Jackson & Co., Winchester, Ky., are manufacturing an aluminum poultry marker that is not only light in weight, but strong and not liable to loosen.

The *Western Rural*, Chicago, is sending out a very attractive war map: Columbia signals: "Not one shot for gain, But all for Freedom, Cuba, and the Maine!"

Bell's Poultry Doctor is a valuable work devoted to the treatment of all diseases of poultry and pigeons by the Homeopathic remedies. It will be sent free for stamp by addressing Bell Remedy Co., 3 Vesey street, New York.

W. S. Gregory, proprietor of the Maple Grove Poultry Farm, Keota, Iowa, is sending out his first annual catalogue and price list of Light Brahmas and White P. Rocks, that should be of special interest to our western readers.

James H. Seely, late with Fish Bros., Joliet, Ill., paid Hammonton a visit. Mr. Seely is about accepting a new position to which we may refer later on. Hammonton never turned out a more successful and popular broiler expert than Mr. Seely.

Editor Curtis, of the *Reliable Poultry Journal*, says editorially in his July issue, that he is now enroute for several states in the east, and among them mentions New Jersey. Should he make an attack upon Hammonton, he will find that we have thrown up ample intrenchments.

Geo. G. Harley, who, as stated in last issue of A FEW HENS, has taken the management of the poultry department on Marrit Farm, Morristown, N. J., spent the Glorious Fourth in Hammonton. Mr. Harley reports that quite a number of large poultry houses are shortly to be erected, and when completed the farm will be the largest in the state.

The Brattleboro, Vermont, Valley Fair will make a special feature of its poultry department, with I. K. Felch as judge. Mr. Felch has judged this show for eleven years. An excellent feature will be the egg display, for which the 1st prize for best dozen white eggs will be \$1; 2d, 50 cents. 1st for best dozen brown eggs, \$1; 2d, 50 cents. In awarding prizes on eggs, evenness of size and color, weight and general appearance shall govern. Exhibitors must state in writing the breed of fowls that laid the eggs.

A copy of the 4th edition of the Poultry Breeders' Egg Record and Account Book, published by H. A. Kuhns, Atlanta, Ga., was received. The entire book has been revised and greatly improved, bringing it more up to date. We are using these Egg Records on A FEW HENS Experimental Farm, and find them very useful. At 25 cents a copy they are remarkably cheap. Mr. Kuhns also publishes poultry architect, the most complete work on the subject yet issued. Price 25 cents.

Bulletin No. 142, New York Agricultural Experiment Station, is the Director's Report for 1897. It announces that the facilities for poultry investigation have been increased by the erection of a new house. The special features of this building are an incubator cellar where uniformity of temperature can be secured, a series of brooders warmed by hot water, breeding pens of the most approved plan, storage for a large variety of foods, a room for the poultryman, and a cooking room. It also announces that from an extended test of the relative efficiency of whole and ground grain in feeding chicks and capons, it was learned

that more food was eaten, and a more rapid and profitable gain was made, when the ground grain was fed.

A good Collie dog is the most faithful and useful animal about a poultry farm. It can be taught to do all manner of chores and tricks, and as a watch dog is unsurpassed. For highly intelligent stock we can certainly recommend the dogs reared and sold by I. K. Felch & Son, Natick, Mass. Mr. Arthur E. Felch writes us: "We have 11 pups—10 males—that are the best we have ever had. They are by Bronzo, he by Natick's Trefoil, 27,786, he by Champion Mauey Trefoil." We might here state that this dog Bronzo is about the best marked and most intelligent animal that we have yet come across, and is an ideal Collie. Felch's Collies are business dogs, and those in want of a faithful companion had better write them at once before this choice lot is disposed of.

## Something New!

Are You Interested in Poultry?

Are You Keeping Poultry for Profit?

Are You a Beginner in Poultry Culture?

A FEW HENS is a new Monthly Poultry Paper, only 25 cents per year. Each issue is filled to overflowing with valuable hints and pointers on Broilers, Roasters, Eggs, Ducks, Geese and Turkeys, Natural and Artificial Incubation, Foods and Feeding, Diseases and Remedies, besides a host of other Practical matter.

It is edited by MICHAEL K. BOYER, who is devoting his time to editing this paper, and conducting experiments on his poultry farm—all of which are fully noted in each issue of A FEW HENS. These experiments are very valuable for the beginner.

Can a Man Make a Living on Two Acres of Land is a subject that is being dealt with practically. Mr. Boyer, on his farm, is taking the place of the beginner, and gradually building up a plant on two acres, that is to yield an income sufficient to comfortably sustain a family.

Those contemplating going into the poultry business on a small scale, will find these articles of untold value. They show just exactly what steps must be taken, what obstacles will be met, and how to avoid the stumbling blocks.

Better send on twenty-five cents at once, and secure the paper for one full year.

For forty cents, will send you A FEW HENS one year, price 25 cents, and a copy of Mr. Boyer's book, "A Living from Poultry," price 25 cents. Or for same price, the paper one year, and book "Profitable Poultry Farming," price 25 cents.

For sixty cents, will send A FEW HENS one year, price 25 cents, and a copy of the book, "Broilers for Profit," price 50 cents. Or for the same price, the paper one year, and the book, "Farm-Poultry Doctor," price 50 cents.

For one dollar, will send A FEW HENS one year, and all four of the above books, \$1.75 in value, for only \$1.00.

Send cash, stamps or money order.

Order now, and secure full and complete knowledge on poultry raising for profit.

**A FEW HENS,**

No. 22 Custom House Street, Boston, Mass.



**It Destroys Vermin on Animals.**

Especially recommended to poultry keepers for destroying that pest of the poultry house, *Lice*. It also prevents the breeding of vermin where freely used. Ten lbs. \$1.00. E. WHITNEY & Co., Natick, Mass.

## Poultry Supplies

Of all kinds. Waste Bread, Cut Clover, Pure Beef Scraps, Paney Ground Oyster Shells. All kinds of Grit, and Agents for Smith & Romaine's B. B. B. Estimates given on special lots of feed.

**FRED. G. ORR & CO.,**

Nos. 5 and 6 Commercial Wharf, Boston, Mass.

## "Best Liver Pill Made." Parsons' Pills

Positively cure biliousness and sick headache, liver and bowel complaints. They expel all impurities from the blood. Delicate women find relief from using them. Price 25 cts.; five \$1.00. Pamphlet free. I. S. JOHNSON & CO., 22 Custom House St., Boston.